



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Paying for the Greening of Noe Valley

By Denise Minor

Corrie Anders has roots.

He has roots in Africa and roots in Ireland. And he has tree roots buckling the sidewalk in front of his house.

Those are the roots he could do without, since city sidewalk inspectors recently hit him and most of his 22nd Street neighbors with orders to repair the walkway to the tune of about \$900 each.

"We thought it was incredible—the sidewalk actually belongs to us," said Anders. "The city has rights to it, but they can make *me* make repairs."

The roots of the crumbling pavement issue go back about 12 years to City Hall's attempt to beautify San Francisco with a plant-a-tree campaign, according to Anders, who bought his 3762 22nd St. house along with his wife Carla Anders in 1976, after the trees were planted.

"My block really got into it," he said. "On the one hand, you think you're doing something good for the city, then bingo, 10 years later you have to pay for it."

One of Anders' neighbors, John Harrison of 3748 22nd St., got a \$900 estimate on repairing his sidewalk from a cement pourer. He is now trying to organize the neighbors on his side of the block between Noe and Sanchez. If they can contract the work together, they might get a break on the price.

Time is running out for those on the street who received a 60-day notice in January. Homeowners who don't have the work completed by this month will have to pay a contractor the city hires to do the repaving.

"It forces the work to be done," said John Giorgi, street inspection supervisor for the city's Department of Public Works (DPW). "We pay the contractor, then bill the property owner, who has 30 days to pay or they get a lien against their taxes."

DPW maintains a revolving fund of about \$100,000 for sidewalk repairs, which is about the average amount spent each year. Giorgi was unable to estimate how much sidewalk repairs cost property owners each year, but said that about



When a tree grows in Noe Valley, as it did here on 22nd Street, it sometimes strains both the concrete and a homeowner's finances. That's because the city, bound to protect the sanctity of its sidewalks, makes property owners pay for repairs to tree-damaged pavement.

PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

51 percent of walkways inspected were cited. Public Works attempts to inspect around 168 miles of sidewalk each year.

Giorgi said his agency had to enforce sidewalk regulations because the city, not property owners, is liable for anyone who trips and is injured on uneven pavement. But until they receive a notice, few homeowners realize they are responsible for sidewalk maintenance. Most cities own the sidewalks, but Giorgi estimated that if San Francisco took over its walkways, the cost would run into millions of dollars.

He has heard complaints that the city ought to support some of the cost for cracking caused by trees, since it pushed for the tree-planting a decade ago. But the city can't make exceptions.

"There's probably been a lot of misunderstanding," Giorgi said. "They [homeowners] get mad about it, but it's just one of those things."

There are some trees that don't wreak havoc on pavement, if cared for properly, according to Gray Shaw, maintenance coordinator for Friends of the Urban Forest, an organization that urges tree-planting and other beautification projects, mainly

through neighborhood groups.

Friends of the Urban Forest recommends planting the Victorian Box, Small Leaf Tristana, Brisbane Box, Flax Leaf Paperhark, Evergreen Pear, Deciduous Ornamental Pear, Mayten and New Zealand Christmas trees.

Homeowners should avoid planting such sidewalk-husters as the Blackwood Acacia, the Sweetgum, and the California Peppertrees, said Shaw.

Friends also advises city dwellers to prune tree roots and install watering tubes and root guards. A watering tube deposits water deep beneath the soil, encouraging the roots to grow deep instead of horizontally near the surface. A root guard is like a collar running about two feet below ground that forces roots to grow straight down.

Even these methods don't guarantee that sidewalks will be spared damage, said John Knox, an Army Street resident who has participated in Noe Valley tree-plantings. Knox has heard of roots growing straight down because of a root guard and then curving up to the surface again after a few years. Some residents have

become so frustrated they've had to give up their Johnny Appleseed pretensions and remove the trees they'd nurtured from saplings.

Knox and other members of the neighborhood group Friends of Noe Valley heard a presentation by Friends of the Urban Forest in February. The latter organization offers aid and tree discounts to any group that will plant 20 or more trees in an area.

Knox supports the concept of more greenery in the city, but said he would like to see more education about the range of possibilities and more imaginative projects, such as planting bushes and flowers instead of trees.

"There was a time when I was a real enthusiast. We did a guide about 10 years ago on the types of trees available. Then a lot of sad things happened," he said. "The reality of taking care of trees dawned on us."

As the reality of taking care of trees dawned on 22nd Street residents, Anders warns those who planted 10 years ago to take note of any cracks or ripples in their pavement. "They don't know it, but their turn is coming." □

Kids in the Opera House: The Schools' Primo Dance Event

By Jeff Kaliss

It's a warm Monday afternoon in March, and the cafeteria at the Alvarado Elementary School on Douglass Street is the scene for what looks like a scaled-down version of "Fame." Ellen Weinstein, a sprightly choreographer-dancer from New York, is taking seven grade-school kids of various ethnic backgrounds, shapes, and genders through the steps of "We Real Cool," a jazzy number choreographed by her East Coast colleague, Amy Lerman.

"You gotta listen to the music," Weinstein advises the young dancers. "Now make a BIG deal of this: change-change-change-TURN-bounce-bounce-bounce-bounce!"

"We Real Cool" is the third of four dances which comprise the *Event of the Year 1986*, a two-hour production which will bring more than 200 dancing kids—many of them from public schools in or near Noe Valley—to the stage of the Opera House on the evening of April 30. The *Event* is the brainchild of Jacques d'Amboise, director of the New York-based National Dance Institute (NDI) and a former featured dancer with the New York City Ballet.

D'Amboise and his staff (including Weinstein and Lerman) have staged similar "Events" in New York, Boston, Maine and Los Angeles over the past 10 years, but it wasn't until the current school year that the School of the Arts Foundation



The Jump Team rehearses "We Real Cool" at Alvarado School, in preparation for the San Francisco School of the Arts Foundation's Event of the Year. From left: Jason Kingston, Ken Cunco, Ricky Quiles, Violetta Liana, National Dance Institute staffer Ellen Weinstein (with head lowered), Rasaan Queen, Geoffrey Fong, Kassia Queen, and local Artist Director Emily Keeler. PHOTO BY MARIELLA POLI

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Letters



PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

Don't Stay Bottled Up

Editor:

"The mountains of things we throw away are much greater than the things we use... When an Indian village became too deep in its own filth, the inhabitants moved. We have no place to which

to move." —John Steinbeck, *Travels With Charley*.

Of course, Steinbeck was right. There is no place to move. Besides, we can't escape our modern consumer-oriented society, not if we want to maintain a lifestyle that includes buying packaged foods, cans and bottles of every description, and an array of products swaddled in packaging material.

In the Mission District, however, there are places where we can dispose of some of our wastes without harm to the environment and at a benefit to a worthy cause.

At Mission High School at 18th and Church, boys and girls (and adult alumni) spend a few hours each month recycling the community's wastes at a profit to themselves as well as to the community. The money generated from the selling of recyclable materials goes to the American Youth Hostels Ecology Club. The club, in turn, subsidizes outdoor trips, such as backpacking and river rafting. It also purchases camping equipment at below cost. The club thus gives city kids an opportunity to enjoy and appreciate nature. Besides reaping material benefits, the youths involved in the recycling project learn the value of useful work and the pride of accomplishment. They know their efforts will help preserve some of the blessings that many of us take for granted: trees, clean water, and abundant cheap energy sources.

The Mission High collection day is the second Saturday of the month, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. The items accepted for recycling are: aluminum of all kinds, newspapers, cardboard and bottles. They'd prefer it if you would separate your recyclables by material, remove caps from bottles and rinse out the

aluminum cans and bottles. Labels need not be removed.

For more information and other locations for recycling, call the San Francisco Solid Waste Management Program at 558-2361.

Denise D'Anne
16th Street

Wharton Bows Out

Editor:

After careful thought as to the probability of running a winning race in 1986, I have decided not to run for San Francisco supervisor this year.

As a newcomer-candidate in 1982 and 1984, I raised a total of more than \$150,000 and garnered a total of more than 85,000 votes. I have now run against all the current San Francisco supervisors. I see no galvanizing issue or well-focused interest sufficient to aid in electing a common-sense moderate challenger this year.

This city would be stronger with the election of an Asian candidate as supervisor, but such a candidate must have broad support in his or her community to be successful citywide. If such a candidate emerges, I will work to help elect him or her. The same opportunity for visible leadership is also overdue for the Hispanic community, and I am equally interested in furthering this aspiration.

My decision not to run in 1986 is coupled with a commitment to aid other promising challengers in their races and to continue contributing as a volunteer activist and attorney to neighborhood, community service, political and small business groups.

In 1988, the political climate at City

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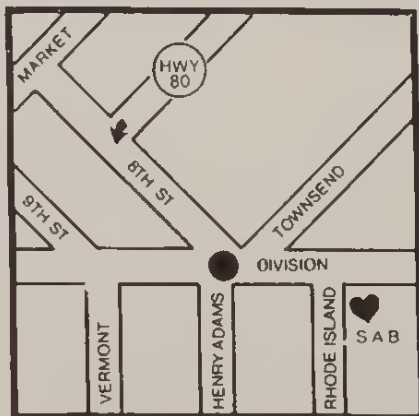
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A Wary Look at Teens Thru the Generation Gap

By Denise Minor

Graffiti is art. Or so say the World Renowned Writers (WRW), Artists of Truth (AOT), and True Artists (TA), three of about a dozen youth gangs based in or around Noe Valley.

Gentrified versions of their counterparts a few blocks east in the Mission, the Noe Valley gangs claim they do nothing more law-breaking than paint graffiti, ride skateboards down the wrong side of the street, and drink alcohol.

"We just sit around and drink beer. Sometimes I write my name," said a 15-year-old member of the Noe Valley Mobsters (NVM). "At Mission High, that's where the big-time gangs are, like HHG (Happy Homes Granada)."

But the graffiti, drinking and "hanging around" are enough to convince some local shop owners, parents and residents that teens need more productive diversions than becoming members of three-initial social clubs.

Kids "join groups because there's nothing else to do," says Bernadette Melvin, 13, or Angel, as she's known to her friends in Noe Valley Gals (NVG). "We just mostly walk around 24th Street."

The nickname "Angel" is typical among the "tags" teens use in the street, Melvin said, adding that often kids don't even know each other's real names.

Noe Valley is also a very happening place for teens from outside the neighborhood, says sixth-grader Mark Taylor of Potrero Hill. This is partly because two major bus routes intersect at 24th and Church and the neighborhood has its share of "thrashable" hills, which attract skateboard gangs such as City Boys Shred (CBS).

But it's also the cosmopolitan atmosphere of 24th Street that attracts, says Taylor's friend, Amedeo Markoff, 14, of



The sidewalks around 24th and Church Streets are favored turf for teens from Noe Valley and nearby neighborhoods. They like to keep tabs on the Happy Donuts action and skate the "gnarly" hills a few blocks away. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

Diamond Heights. "Let me put it this way: my friend has a T-shirt that says it all—'London, Paris, Rome, Noe Valley'."

This notoriety doesn't sit as well with some shop owners as it does with teens who want to socialize. "They're often loud and obnoxious and they bother the customers," complains Fred Avila, assistant manager of Happy Donuts, the 24-hour coffee shop at the corner of Church and 24th.

"They want to come in here and just sit, and we won't let them, so they get mad. So they go out front and they block the doorway."

Teens from Mission High, James Lick Middle School and other schools often congregate in front of his store and Shufat's Market, a nearby stop-and-go with heavy late-night foot traffic. "We get them from both directions," Avila said. "I guess they're bored and don't have much else to do."

Once police asked some troublesome kids to leave Happy Donuts, recalled Avila, but they came back minutes after the patrolmen left.

Officers Chris Cunnie and Charles Ellis of Mission District Police Station, who are assigned to the Noe Valley beat, say the neighborhood is still one of the quietest and most trouble-free in the city. They've noticed a citywide increase in gang-monogram graffiti, but in Noe Valley it's kept pretty much under control, mostly through the eradication efforts of that "civic-minded citizen" Fred Methner.

Methner is president of the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, which last year donated \$500 to police SWAP teams for paint to cover graffiti.

"There isn't a day goes by that I don't go out and paint over graffiti," says Methner, who concentrates his neighborhood touch-ups on James Lick and Alvarado school grounds and walls along the J-Church line. "I've spent 10 years wiping

out graffiti. My basement is full of paints" that match the local building colors.

Methner said sure, he's noticed the gang symbols. "I see the same crap all over." Methner recently recommended to the mayor's Anti-Graffiti Advisory Committee, of which he's a member, that the city ban the sale of spray-paint cans to minors. He also suggested that the S.F. Unified School District hold a citywide competition for the "cleanest public school" to encourage kids to become anti-litter vigilantes.

Robert Lustenberger, principal of James Lick Middle School, says his administration is grateful to Methner for his constant work. But for the graffiti, Lustenberger doesn't see the youth groups as creating a problem. "It's just a way to fit in," he said.

For kids who genuinely want something else to do, he said, James Lick offers a number of after-school and during-lunch programs, such as basketball, football, volleyball, soccer, tutoring, and astronomy and chess clubs.

But Miriam Blaustein of the Friends of Noe Valley thinks even more can be done. "We have all kinds of ideas for working with kids using cooperation, not discipline. I'd like to see a new approach from the bottom up," she said. "The kids who are trashing and causing problems are the ones you have to ask to help."

Blaustein says a good example of a community project that both kids and adults participated in is Noe Courts, the park at the corner of 24th and Douglass Streets. Three years ago the Friends had a surplus of money and decided to use it for something to help local residents, teenagers in particular.

"The lot was a wasteland... so we got together kids and neighbors to ask what they wanted to do," she said. The project chosen was a playground which, when completed, received a \$20,000

award from the city. With that money, a geodesic-dome play structure was purchased and installed.

"We had a gigantic barbecue celebrating the whole thing. Very tough kids came out to help, and so did little old ladies," she said with a grin.

That kind of cooperation is something Blaustein would like to see fostered again in the community, maybe around a project such as a mural. She would also like to see the older kids get together with younger kids to help them set good priorities in life.

"It has started to deteriorate with a whole new generation of kids," she said. "We could call on an earlier generation of kids to help serve as a catalyst."

But something like that would best work in cooperation with the schools, and the current administration of local schools seems reluctant to support neighborhood involvement," she said.

Maybe for a project such as a mural, though, the Friends could go directly to the kids. After all, with such prominent organizations as the Artists of Truth, World Renowned Writers and True Artists, Noe Valley shouldn't have a problem finding eager artistic talent. □



Ray Sabie and Jeannine Viola, obviously proud of their handiwork, displayed sketches of Ray's graffiti designs to Voice photographer Tom Wachs last month. But if anti-graffiti campaigner Fred Methner has anything to say about it, Noe Valley would be rid of this "crap."



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Kids Work Hard In Rehearsal for Big Dance Night

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(SOTA), headquartered at Alvarado School, was able to realize its long-term hope of initiating an NDI project here.

To lead the way, SOTA Executive Director Fred Sonenberg last year hired Emily Keeler, a dancer, choreographer, and director of the San Francisco Moving Company, as the project's artistic director. Keeler spent a week observing and learning d'Amboise's ways in New York, and accompanied him on his visits last January to the six participating local schools: Alvarado and James Lick in Noe Valley, Rooftop nearby on the flanks of Twin Peaks, Glen Park Elementary, Aptos Middle School in the Ingleside District, and Luther Burbank near McLaren Park.

Some 800 eager kids were auditioned, from whom 240 were chosen to dance in the Event. Keeler selected 31 of those for her Jump Team, which performs the "We Real Cool" number and other special roles. The Jump Team has received extra training, including four straight days of rehearsal with Weinstein last month.

"Listen, brothers and sisters," Weinstein addresses her seven, who are arrayed across the floor in their collective role as a gang of urban drop-outs. "Ken, you're up higher, and Violetta, you're down lower. And stick your butt out!"

Violetta Luna, a slim fifth-grader picked from the Glen Park School for the Jump Team, is smiling and apparently not suffering too much from the expectations of her instructors and parents. "My mom told me, if I get kicked out, [of the training], that's it," she says. "It's the only opportunity of my life I get to do something like this."

But Violetta is quite sure that this is exactly what she *should* be doing. "They picked me because I'm very bright and I pick things up real fast," she brags. And for what she puts out, the returns

are considerable. "I never did anything this exciting before," she beams.

Kassia and Rassan Queen, sister and brother, blonde and brunette, 10 and 11 years old, respectively, got recruited for the Jump Team from Rooftop Elementary. Unlike most of the dancers, Kassia has had some previous dance training, in jazz at the Mission Cultural Center and in tap at the Betty May School of Dance on Guerrero Street. Still, she says, it's a challenge remembering "all the little right-left-rights and left-right-lefts" involved in "We Real Cool." Rassan plays soccer on Saturdays, right before going to the Jump Team's three-hour practice at the San Francisco Ballet studio on Franklin Street.

Ricky Quiles, a stocky Jump Team member from Aptos Middle School, finds he's been able to lose weight and gain self-discipline during his months of rehearsing. "If just one person gets it wrong, they tell you to do it all over and keep on trying until *everyone* gets it right," he explains.

Ricky and Rassan have noticed some competition between their schools, like the kind found in interscholastic athletics. "Jacques says that Aptos has the best dancers and everything, and we learn quickly," says Ricky, whose school got a return visit from d'Amboise in February. "But I don't know if he was just saying that to impress us."

"Funny, that's what he said to us, too," Rassan jokes.

Upstairs at the SOTA office, after the Jump Team rehearsal, there's coordinated energy of a different but equally impressive sort. Phones warble, Xerox machines growl, and typewriters tap. The chief choreographers here behind the scenes are Sonenberg and Keeler.

Sonenberg, a sonorous, bushy bear of a man, first became aware of the magic of the NDI approach to kids' dance when he and colleague Ruth Asawa, chair of the SOTA board of directors, saw a rough cut of an Oscar-winning documentary about d'Amboise at an arts dinner two years ago. Sonenberg perceived "a real community of interest between what Jacques wanted and what Ruth had

created" in her Alvarado Arts Program back in the late '70s and early '80s.

However, SOTA's next couple of years were focused on the organization of the foundation and the establishment of the High School of the Arts on the campus of McAtear School. Following success in these areas, Sonenberg approached



Photo by Mariella Poli

d'Amboise and Keeler last year. In keeping with the NDI tradition of staging shows in first-class halls (New York's Events have been at Madison Square Garden and L.A.'s at the Mark Taper Forum), Sonenberg went for the San Francisco Opera House and found April 30 to be the only available date.

While Keeler lined up an artistic staff (including accompanists and a choreographic assistant), Sonenberg and producers Valerie Williams and Valerie Baadh went after funding. Significant financial contributions were obtained from the Bank of America, California Arts Council, and Embarcadero Center. Donations also rolled in from Esprit (costuming) and Second Sole (shoes), and the Marines Memorial Theatre, among others, provided technical support.

Sonenberg says the six elementary and middle schools involved in Event 1986 were chosen "on the basis of their proximity to Alvarado and the High School of the Arts, commitment of the schools' principals, ethnic and social and cultural diversity, and the availability of an appropriate facility, including a wooden dance floor." It's the first criterion in particular that has focused activity in and around Noe Valley.

High above Portola Avenue, looking down on Noe Valley, Rooftop Elementary School sits perched like a giant treehouse full of busy teachers and school kids. About 40 boys and girls are gathered in the cafeteria in the middle of a Tuesday morning as Keeler arrives to rehearse the "Little Big Top" dance which is the second half of the Event.

Keeler is working with Rooftop's "elephants" and tightrope walkers while Hassan al Falak rehearses with the dancing bears at Alvarado, Camille Salmon with the clowns at Glen Park, and Alan Scofield with the big cats at Lick and Aptos. Observing the Rooftop group are Weinstein, on the last day of her San Francisco visit, and Nancy Mayeda, Rooftop's wise and kindly principal.

After a bouncy warm-up to a 214 beat from the piano, the kids are taking deep breaths of the sylvan air drifting through the windows and are ready to roll. "I'm watching to see if you've been working on things," Keeler advises them in a clear, child-like voice.

Principal Mayeda has been encouraging the growth of the arts at Rooftop for some time now, and she aggressively sought her school's inclusion as soon as she found out about the NDI project. She felt that "the program would add to our curriculum and we'd add to it, because we have youngsters who listen and are well-disciplined and would treat art not just as a do-your-own-thing kind of thing." This is not to say that Rooftop kids "have to be horn gifted," stresses Mayeda. "At this level, a lot of it can be nurtured," she believes.

The response of Rooftop's third, fourth and fifth graders to d'Amboise's audition in January was overwhelming. "When he left us he told us, 'You're going to have to cut down on this group. There are too many youngsters,'" Mayeda recalls. But she felt that "once they've been selected, that's a hard thing to do. So we didn't!"

In addition to their own special sections of the "Little Big Top," Rooftop dancers appear in the ensemble sections with the 200 dancers from the other five schools. Rooftop has also contributed its share of Jump Team members including, besides the Queens, Noe Valley residents Ken Cuneo and Eva Popper.

All of this helps sustain what Mayeda and her young charges refer to as the Rooftop Spirit. "It's really good to be a Rooftopper," declares the principal. "but

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Director Sue Loyd



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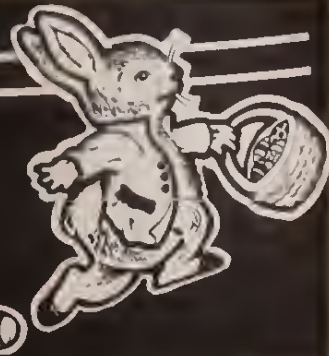
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they have to *see* it." Activities such as the *Event* and the school-produced Rooftop In Performance program (with musical numbers written and performed by the kids) provide "an end product that says you're important!"

Keeler introduces Weinstein to the Rooftop dancers (not on the Jump Team) who haven't met her yet. "Ellen is from New York, and she's here to check up on you," she prepares them.

After a few maneuvers to the giddy sounds of the circus march from Nino Rota's score for Fellini's *8½*, Keeler stops the action. "Wait, this is a mess," she scolds. "How many arches are there?" she quizzes the kids. There are staggered murmurs of "Six." "Also, what foot does the Jacques-Rock start on?" (Keeler refers to a step named for NDI's founder.) Murmurs of "Left." "But you're pointing to your right, Eva," she corrects a little girl in pigtails and leotard.

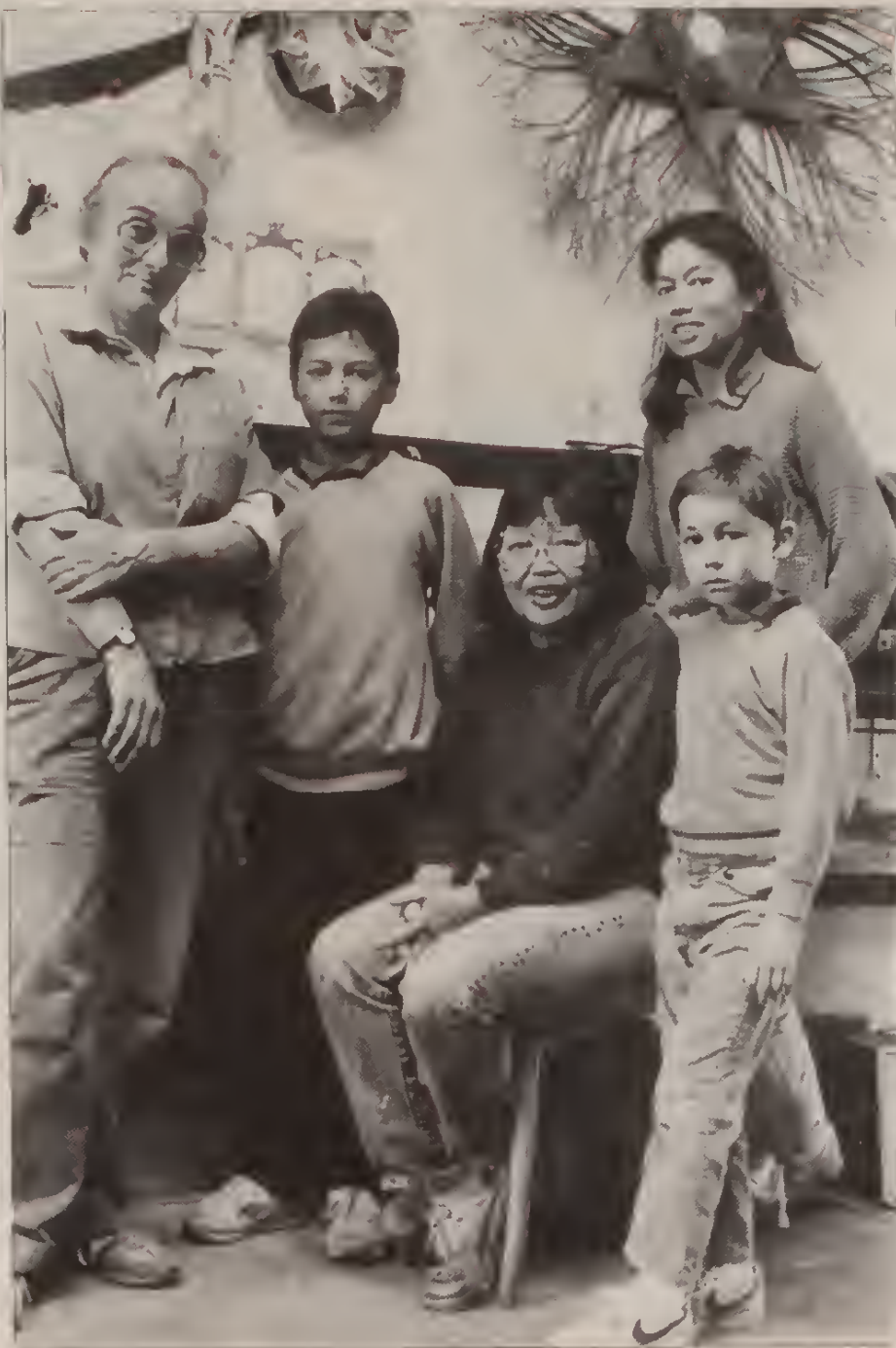
Weinstein is more impressed than Keeler's admonishments might suggest. "I think they're great, I think they're terrific," says the East Coast choreographer. Of the Jump Team, she says, "I've only had them for four days, and I was amazed how fast they are learning and putting it into their bodies."

She points out that the New York *Event* starts rehearsals in October and doesn't perform until June, giving those kids more than twice as long as San Francisco kids to polish their act. The apparent success of the pilot San Francisco project is all the more impressive because "it's the first time these kids have done anything like this."

Keeler, who has worked before with teens but never with younger kids, says she models her discipline of dancers on d'Amboise's method. "He's very demanding, more demanding than you think is possible with kids," she explains, "and yet he gets interest, he gets attention, he gets excellence. The children like to be pushed, especially if you're pushing in a loving way."

An additional motivation for the kids is the involvement of celebrities in the *Event*. Assemblyman Willie Brown will recite Walt Whitman's "Banner at Daybreak" as hearing-impaired students from Luther Burbank School perform the evening's first dance. The *Color Purple* star Whoopi Goldberg is narrator for the second piece, an ensemble dance based on Longfellow's "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere." And members of the once and future champion 49ers football team will perform as strong men in the circus piece.

"Gentlemen, I want quiet," demands Keeler. "No laughing!" In this section of the "Little Big Top," Miranda, a long-haired, long-limbed Noe Valley girl, has a solo involving several graceful back flips. She's then joined by several of the other girls. "This is your tightrope, I want to see your imagination at work," Keeler tells them, and she counts out the beat: "one-two-three, two-two-three, three-two-three...."



Three generations of sculptor Ruth Asawa's family have come together to work on the School of the Arts Foundation's Event of the Year. Pictured (from left) are family friend and fellow artist Nancy Thompson, dancer Ken Cuneo, Asawa, Ido Cuneo (Asawa's daughter and Ken's mother), and Hudson Cuneo (Ken's brother).

PHOTO BY MARIELLA POLI

Miranda Richards and several of the other Rooftop girls have trained with the American Gymnastics Club, which, according to fourth-grader Jenny Jongejan, has rendered them "more flexible." In addition, Ann Henry, mother of fourth-grade dancer Lizzie Henry, teaches "motor sensory" classes at Rooftop which "help you develop coordination."

Still, preparation for the *Event* has been a very new and exciting experience for the girls ever since d'Amboise auditioned them. "He was kind of strict," recalls Jenny, "but he was really nice. He helped us with our dancing and showed us what we did wrong."

Aside from eagerly anticipating their performance at the Opera House, the girls are psyched about the possibility that some of them might get to join d'Amboise for his New York *Event*, which will also include kids from Boston, Maine, and the Republic of China, and appearances by Judy Collins and Mary Tyler Moore. But San Francisco's participation in that *Event* is contingent on SOTA's finding additional funding for airfare and accommodations.

Finally, it's time for the boys to rehearse their elephant number. "This is not real life, it's a dance," Keeler reminds them. Elisa Elliott, a former operatic stage manager who's now in charge of the Rooftop In Performance program, stops by to monitor her fourth-grade son Tommy's progress. "Eyes up, chins up," barks Keeler. "Crane your neck, 'cause I wanna see it."

"Once in a while I mess up a little, but I just start over," says Tommy Elliott, who practices his steps at home on 26th Street "any time I can." He's enjoying his first dance experience, "because it gives you a chance to see what you can really do."

Joel Frangquist, a third-grade Rooftopper from Alvarado Street, has also reaped unexpected benefits from the NDI project. "It's sort of been making me a different person," he says. "It seems like I want to be up and around more, more active. You sort of feel more free."

Elisa Elliott has caught some of the "magic in the greasepaint" from son Tommy. "He comes home and shows me

what he's done," she reports. "He'll say, 'This is a really neat step,' or 'This seems kinda stupid.'" With her own professional background, she understands that "it's hard to put something together that looks so good."

Joel's mother Deborah is similarly impressed that her son "has more concern about whether he's really going to do well at this than he's had about much of his academic work, where he *does* do well." She adds, "This one is pushing him a little more."

Also pleased with the elephants' progress is Ruth Asawa, who, together with her daughter Ido Cuneo and multi-media artist Nancy Thompson, has created the circus wagon backdrop against which the "Little Big Top" will be performed. "This is a highly disciplined experience for them," Asawa says of the kids. She's particularly impressed that her grandson Ken Cuneo, usually an outdoor boy, has become so caught up in his new indoor activity as a dancing elephant and Jump Team member.

Asawa was one of the founders of the Alvarado Arts Project that put art in the classrooms and on the walls of several local schools. As a member of SOTA's board, she's helped realize many ambitious undertakings. But she points out that the amount of organization required for the NDI project, including \$150,000 in funds and in-kind donations, "is way beyond what we've ever done before."

Besides involving the staff, celebrities, and student dancers mentioned above, the project has gotten kids involved in set design. The urban graffiti background for "We Real Cool" was painted at Aptos School, and Rooftop students provided drawings of the wild animals which will appear caged in the 12' x 15' circus wagon assembled by Asawa and her colleagues.

In addition, Rooftop parents helped paint and decorate a background carousel designed by Asawa. A long-time Castro Street resident and member of the Friends of Noe Valley, Asawa has been a strong supporter of community involvement, and she's happy that the NDI project has elicited lots of local boosters.

Most everyone involved agrees that the beneficial effects of the *Event* will reach way beyond April 30. Sonenberg and Keeler would like to see the project repeat next year, but on a longer, October-June schedule involving many more schools and student assistants from the High School for the Arts.

Many of the kids say they'll stay with the project if it continues, and their abiding interest is its most precious product. "We're not saying that you can all be dancers," says Sonenberg, "but rather, that you can all dance. The arts are really for everybody."

Sonenberg notes that the *Event's* producers have "scaled the house at an absolute minimum," and good seats for the April 30 performance may be had for very little. "I think we'll sell out," he says, "though we're not looking for box office sales to pay for this." You'll find tickets at the Opera House box office at Van Ness and Grove, or you can call 864-3330. □

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Rummaging Through the Antiquities of Church Street

By Denise Minor

At the end of Church Street, where the J streetcar makes its final stops before turning around, five small shops sell relics from the past in almost every form imaginable.

Vaseline glass lamps from the late 19th century, hand-crocheted ivory yokes, worn brass handles for antique oak wardrobes, and 80-year-old gambling machines—they're all there.

"This street has really become antique row," says Mike Leonard, owner of Mike's Antique Lighting at the corner of Church and Clipper.

Old light fixtures dangle from his ceiling in styles ranging from quaint Victorian converted gas lamps to exotic French art glass. "I really like nice glass. And old light fixtures are a passion with me," said Leonard, holding up a large blue luminescent bulb that resembled a Dairy Queen ice cream cone. "This one is called blue opal swirl."

Leonard became interested in antique lighting about five years ago when he helped a friend restore a Victorian home. In October, he moved in with Sam Davis Antiques at the current location and Jan I took over the lease from Davis. Since then, business has boomed.

"We've been so busy we haven't been able to get the fixtures restored fast enough," he said, referring to the restoration work that people bring in. The shop recently got lighting fixture catalogs from the turn of the century for customers to browse through if they want ideas.

Since Leonard only needs a little floor space for his lamp shades and counter, he rents space to a few other antique dealers and handles their sales. One dealer who sells antique British furniture has done particularly well, he said.

Another shop with antique and reproduction lighting is Homes of Charm at 1544 Church St. Co-owner Sylvia Powell

claims that Homes, which opened in 1963, was the first on the block. "When we came here, there were gypsies living across the street," she said, gesturing toward some modern apartments.

Besides a large assortment of lamps, Homes of Charm has many pieces of furniture, most of which were restored by Powell's son, John, and his wife, Eva. But the shop's specialty is hardware.

Wooden cases of shiny door knobs, bathroom fixtures, drawer handles and kitchen utensils line half the walls. "A lot of people who are refurbishing their homes come to buy our hardware," said Powell. "The new stuff costs so much, but is so tinny and cheap."

In the kitchen section sits an enormous wood and gas stove of chrome and iron, which is used to heat the store. "That stove belonged to the sister of Tom Mooney, the famous labor organizer who was falsely imprisoned. It has historical significance," said Powell, with a wink.

Nearby is a table spread with cookies, coffee and about 10 kinds of tea, all offered free to customers.

Homes of Charm is also known for its antique barber chairs. The Powells have sold 12, but decided to hold onto their two favorites. "They're so comfortable," said Powell, settling into one, teacup in hand. "We can sit here, drink a cup of tea, and look out the window and watch everyone go by."

Also claiming to have the oldest antique shop on Church is James Mahaffey, owner of the Flying Machine at 1734 Church. Both Powell and Mahaffey agree, however, that they opened at almost the same time.

Although the shop was named for Mahaffey's mania, antique airplanes, he does not carry old aviation items. "We've got kind of a mishmash of everything," he said, pointing to the enormous clutter of treasures—Japanese paper lanterns, tiny cannons, Beatles photos—surround-



The name of this Church Street shop, Homes of Charm, bespeaks well of what you can achieve by decorating with its antique hardware. Eva Powell (left) and husband Tom also display a collection of old china, kitchenware and barber chairs.
PHOTO BY TINA WENDT-ABRAMSON

ing him.

Mahaffey specializes in kerosene lamps and their parts. "The chimneys are especially hard to find," he explained. "They aren't produced anywhere anymore except Mexico."

Mahaffey also has a section for pottery made by his son Richard, a teacher at a Belview, Washington, art museum.

An eye-catching article hanging near the window is a giant paper-mâché horse. Mahaffey assured a visitor of its authenticity: "It was made by a topless dancer from North Beach. She was selling at a crafts fair in Sausalito about 20 years ago."

Another relic of the '60s is Mahaffey's shop sign. Painted in psychedelic colors, it brandishes a 1912 German plane called the Tob. "It's from the hippie period," he said with a smile. "I think I'm going to replace it soon."

Across the street from the Flying Machine is Johnson's Antique Amusements at 1767 Church, a shop unique in San Francisco. "I specialize in American folk art, antique toys, early advertising and turn-of-the-century gambling machines," said owner Larry Johnson.

The most striking items in his store are the enormous trade signs, a one-of-a-kind collection, according to Johnson. "These are what merchants hung in front of their shops. That one was a pharmacist's," he said, indicating a huge sign shaped like an apothecary jar. "Those were for a locksmith, an optometrist, a lumber yard and a stationery store," he said, pointing to a giant lock, a pair of spectacles, a saw and a pencil.

In his display cases, Johnson boasts such unusual items as a Masonic secret ritual kit—a knife and a velvet drape embellished with a silver skull and crossbones. "A priest told me it's from when the Masons still practiced the black mass," said Johnson. "I'm sure a lot of Masons would deny that."

Among his other antique amusements is a turn-of-the-century peep show—a little house whose bedroom windows open for a penny. He also has a number of antique face masks, including a giant

policeman's head from Ohio and smaller masks from Germany.

Johnson does very little street business, selling mainly to museums, collectors and art shows. But he does open the shop occasionally when he comes in. "anywhere from noon to five."

On the other end of the antique spectrum, Lady Sybil's Closet at 1484 Church St. sells vintage linens, antique embroidery and delicate hand-painted china.

Owner Sybil Richards' dainty wares draw patrons from throughout the city. The dresser sets, lace collars, hand-crocheted hags and yokes are in excellent condition, despite being as much as 100 years old.

"I do only minor repairs," she said. "I only buy things in top-notch condition." She also sells china and displays a delicate French ivory tea set near the entrance of her tiny emporium.

Richards owned another shop on Church near 30th for two years until 1983, when she moved to her present location near 27th Street. At the old shop she sold furniture as well as knickknacks, but after the move she decided to specialize in linens. "Linen and cotton, not polyester. I only like natural fabrics," she said as she sat stitching a piece.

Church Street has one other antique shop at the corner of 27th, which neighbors say has not been open for months and is for sale. But if no one buys it, antique buffs will find no shortage of diversions on Church Street's antique row.



A gang of folk art and advertising figurines confront the visitor to Johnson's Antique Amusements. Despite the curiosity of Church Street passersby, Johnson does not depend greatly on walk-in business. PHOTO BY TINA WENDT-ABRAMSON.

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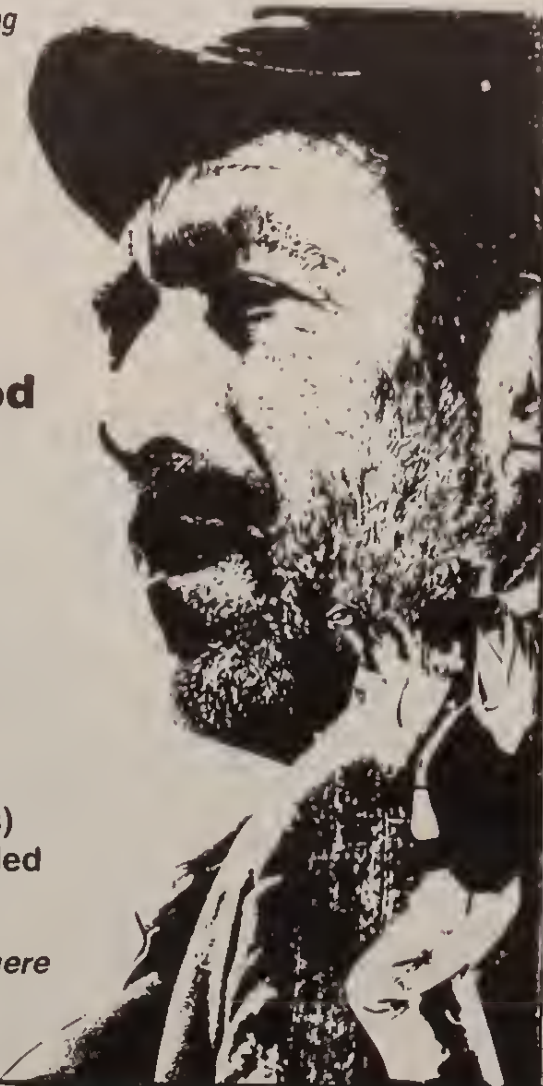
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Exercise Studio Stretches to Serve Different Needs

By Gary Szabo

Three factors make 25th Street Workout an attractive exercise studio for Noe Valley residents. Convenience tops the list. Surrounded by bus stops, the center's large storefront building at the corner of Castro and 25th streets is an easy ride or jog from anywhere in the neighborhood.

The studio's second feature sets it apart from most other athletic facilities. During off-peak hours, 25th Street Workout offers discount classes for the disabled and elderly. This social service, subsidized by membership fees and income from other classes, allows the studio to operate as a non-profit organization, which leads us to attraction number three: You can write off your exercise on your taxes.

Since it opened last November, the workout center has devoted most of its resources to gathering clientele for its regular classes. These include standard aerobics and "stretch-and-tone" sessions, plus Tai Kwon Do, exercise for tots (ages 3-4), an after-school class for adolescents, "Exercise for Two" for pregnant mothers, yoga, and the latest fitness hybrid, "low-impact" aerobics.

Charles Morganstern, 25th Street Workout's director, conducts a 6 a.m. "Back to Exercise" class designed for people who haven't exercised in 4-10 years or for those recovering from a debilitating injury. Besides pulling in confessed loafaholics, this class attracts those who dislike the loud music and heavy bouncing of typical aerobics sessions, he says.



In a spirit of fun and service to special groups, the 25th Street Workout studio is stimulating the neighborhood's need to shape up. PHOTO BY JOEL ABRAMSON.

As attendance at the prime-time classes has grown, so has enrollment in the disabled program, which features separate classes for blind and wheelchair-bound persons. Morganstern is particularly enthusiastic about this unique feature of 25th Street Workout and even contracts himself out to hospitals for "outcall" exercise classes.

A recreational therapy graduate from U.C.L.A., Morganstern sees himself not as a sweat-sergeant but as a "bringer of fun." Fun seems to be what he had in mind when designing the center's decor. The building was painted an eye-catching aqua ensuring its "yuppie appeal," and its brightly lit, well-ventilated interior is adorned with framed stills from "The Lucy Show."

Morganstern, who in addition to teaching has handled most of 25th Street Workout's personnel, marketing, bookkeeping,

public relations and janitorial chores, speaks with the evangelicism of a new-age Richard Simmons. Overweight as a child, he hated exercise and hid behind backstops to avoid the tortuous calisthenics of grade-school P.E. At 16, he suffered a ruptured disk and was paralyzed from the waist down for nine months. Having had his nose rubbed in sedentary life, Morganstern decided to commit himself to physical fitness and share his road to rehabilitation with others.

His philosophy is basically: A workout a day keeps the doctor away. "You brush your teeth every day," Morganstern reasons. "Why can't you exercise with the same frequency?"

Taking personal responsibility for your

well-being is also important. "We don't make you look good," he emphasizes. "You do that. We only make you feel good about yourself." But Morganstern doesn't advise people to concentrate on losing weight. "When you lose something, you spend a lot of time looking around for it." His alternative? "Give it away."

In its five months of operation, 25th Street Workout has surpassed expectations and in February paid for itself for the first time. Morganstern attributes the success of his enterprise to its location ("Noe Valley has not had an exercise studio or workout facility—it's needed") and to the good energy at the core of the project. He envisions the studio evolving into an alternative community center, a kind of Meat Market Coffeehouse minus the coffee and cigarettes.

Plans for adding a weight room, complete with rowing and bicycle machines, and a juice bar on the second floor are in the works. And late last month, Morganstern was negotiating to set up a work/exercise exchange program for developmentally disabled adults.

Things are going so well, in fact, that demand for exercise space may wind up stretching the physical limits of the facility. "Then we open a new studio," says Morganstern. He's no slouch.

For information on times and fees, call 647-1224, or brush your teeth, don those sweat socks, and trot on over to 1500 Castro St. □



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Shy Irishman Dances Through His Hundredth

By Denise Minor

Robert Coulter remembers when cable cars ran through Noe Valley, when sand dunes covered the far side of Twin Peaks and when cattle grazed on Diamond Heights.

His first visit to Noe Valley was to a party 75 years ago. He had just arrived from Ulster, Ireland, and had found work at the shipyard working for Union Iron Works.

Glen Park was "a great place for the Irish" in those days, he says, especially on St. Paddy's Day when the men lined up for tug-a-war.

Although his stories of turn-of-the-century San Francisco are fascinating, Coulter preferred to talk optimistically about the present than to reminisce about the past at his 100th birthday party held March 6 at the Noe Valley Ministry.

He spoke of how grateful he was to have a caring family and his loyal friends surrounding him at the Noe Valley Senior Center, and displayed birthday greetings from as far away as Ireland and Canada.

About 100 attended Coulter's champagne luncheon celebration, including reporter Andy Goodman and a cameraperson from Channel 7 News. Mayor Dianne Feinstein sent a message proclaiming March 6 Bob Coulter Day.

Coulter shared the lead table with his girlfriend, Mary Culotta, 86, his granddaughter, Judy Coulter, and daughter-in-law, Margaret Coulter.

A tall man with shining blue eyes and a soft, Irish accent, Coulter seemed a bit shy about the fuss over his birthday. But when he's not the center of attention, the shyness disappears, said party organizer



Bob Coulter, right, lends kuds from the Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School as they sing him a Happy Hundredth Birthday. The party was celebrated last month at the Noe Valley Ministry, where Coulter is a regular at the seniors' lunch program. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

Frieda Blatter. Coulter is usually one of the first on the dance floor at social gatherings and is always ready with a joke, she said.

"When someone asked him how he felt about the Muni fare hike to 15 cents for seniors, he said he was glad because that way he would save 15 cents every time he walked somewhere," she said.

Coulter says he has lived off and on in Noe Valley and the Mission for 70 years. In 1953, he retired from the Ford Motor Company after 30 years of

employment.

During the past few years, Coulter has become a regular at the Noe Valley Senior Center's weekday lunch programs at the Ministry (see accompanying story). Although he can cook his own meals, Blatter said, he and a number of other seniors enjoy the companionship.

Culotta confirmed that her boyfriend had no problem cooking or doing almost anything else he wants to do. His secret for a century of good health: "Well, he

walks every day, and now and then has a shot of Old Crow." □



Senior Center Serves More Than Just a Good Hot Lunch

By Denise Minor

Senior citizens who want to make new friends, need a nutritional lunch or just don't feel like cooking at noon are encouraged to come for lunch each weekday at the Noe Valley Senior Center in the Noe Valley Ministry.

An average of 30 local residents take advantage of the lunch program each day, said Senior Center Site Manager Sally Buchman, but she and the Center directors want to see that number increase to about 40.

"We're trying to reach out to more seniors," Buchman said. "There's a bit of a stigma attached. But it's not a hand-out. They should reap the benefits of all the taxes they've paid."

Frieda Blatter, President of the Senior Center's board of directors, said the lunch, which begins at 12:30 p.m., is a good opportunity to make friends.

"A lot of people who come here live by themselves and this is their only social contact," she said. "It's an opportunity

for them to deepen friendships. It all seems more like a family here."

The lunch program is also an excellent way for those who can't cook to get at least one nutritionally complete meal a day. Seniors pay only one dollar, which is one-sixth of the actual meal cost. The remainder is funded by the San Francisco Commission on Aging, said Buchman.

The Center offers a number of other activities, including films, lectures, exercise classes, bingo, short walks and a Wednesday artists' program. Buchman also arranges trips to places such as the Winchester Mystery House and Anchor Steam Brewery.

Besides handling her part-time position, funded by Golden Gate Senior Services, Buchman volunteers as the Center's program coordinator. If membership increases, she said, she hopes to develop other activities for the varied interests of Noe Valley seniors.

The Center, located in the Ministry at 1021 Sanchez St., is open every weekday from noon to 4 p.m. □



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1906: Eyewitness Tells How Noe Valley Survived

By Melinda Breitmeyer
and Frances Gibson

When the hero of Voltaire's *Candide* is told by his mentor that this is the "best of all possible worlds," it is always a prelude to disaster. The reader can then reflect on the folly of optimism.

San Franciscans are of course well aware of the calamity lurking beneath our hazy hills: the *Earthquake*. Even if we make a better, if not the best, possible world, nature remains well equipped and ready to deal a deathly blow.

We can only speculate on how we will handle the next "big one." But we might well learn something from that reliable source, history. In 1931, the *Twin Peaks Sentinel*, a crisp-styled little community newspaper not unlike the *Voice*, ran an article recounting what it was like to survive the 1906 earthquake in Noe Valley. The story, which commemorated the disaster's 25th anniversary, was written by Frances Gibson, who was 19 and living in her family home on Clipper Street in 1906.

After the quake struck, Gibson grabbed her camera, hit the streets and made like a reporter, as the following excerpts from her article show.

Noe Valley was then close to becoming the neighborhood it is today. There were still quite a few vacant lots scattered about, and in addition to stores on 24th Street, there were produce markets, bakeries, hutchers and other stores on almost every block, usually on the bottom floor of corner Victorians. Many of the roads were unpaved. Sidewalks were slatted boards. An automobile was a rare sight, and horses clip-clopped up and down the hills with some difficulty.

The view up to Twin Peaks was of bare slopes dotted with cows instead of apartment buildings. Beyond Twin Peaks, an almost uninterrupted expanse of sand dunes stretched to Ocean Beach. Noe Valley was the edge of the frontier, and one of the places where streams of refugees halted to make new homes in 1906.

It was the fire, rather than the quake, which did the most damage. Thus survivors refer to the disaster as the Great Fire, not the Great Quake. Certainly the four-day conflagration ranks as one of the worst in world history. At the fire's height, the view toward downtown from Twin Peaks was of a hellish inferno, red flames lighting up even the night sky through billows of black smoke.

As the fire raced through the city, people in the streets shouted information to each other that was often inaccurate or exaggerated. There was no TV or radio to tune to for the latest developments.

Frances Gibson lived at 70 Clipper St., between Church and Dolores, with several of her six siblings and her parents, who were immigrants from Ireland. The family had never been instructed to get under a doorway, but in those somewhat simpler times, they knew how to clasp hands when an earthquake hit, and that is what they did in the early morning hours of that fateful spring day of "aught-six."

Wednesday, April 18, 1906

RUMBLE, RUMBLE! BUMP, BING, BANG!

I jumped up from my sleep, rubbed my eyes and yelled, "Whot the --- was

that?" Crackety, Crack! went the walls, and the ceiling bowed as they bent and almost touched each other with the force of the shock.

Ma was sitting on the edge of her bed in a half faint, praying, "God save us all." I looked at the clock. It had stopped at 13 minutes past 5.

My father and brothers rushed into our bedroom and grabbed us, pulling us into the other room. Standing together, pale and with drawn faces, we all took hands and clasped together. We awaited the end as the house rocked to and fro. It seemed an eternity until the shock was over. Then Tom broke the silence: "That sure was a corker!"

We all with one accord rushed to the window. I opened it, and horrible noises, indescribable, reached our ears. From every door and window, ghostly faces were peering, neighbors were running wild in their nightgowns. The family got busy and put on their clothes. Sis went downstairs to make a pot of coffee to revive Ma. "Have the grace of God about you all. It is no joking matter," she warned us.

As luck would have it, the well was OK and the pump was still working, so the kettle was filled. When the kettle was put on the stove, the stove refused to work and smoked like fury, but we forced it along long enough to boil the water and fix up a breakfast.

Gas mains had broken all over the city during the quake. Escaping gas was one of the primary causes of fire, especially from people trying to cook on stoves.

Running water had only recently come to Noe Valley. Mains had been installed around 1900, and these broke along with the gas mains, forcing people to fall back on disused wells. An underground creek ran under Clipper Street, supplying the Gibsons and their neighbors' wells.

Tom and 'Lisbeth started out for work. They had only gotten a short distance from the house when they learned there was no car service. The streets had been plowed up and cracked all over town. Rails had been twisted out of shape. Worst of all, people were rushing around like mad, yelling, "The town's on fire! The big buildings are down and everybody is killed!"

Actually very few buildings fell down during the quake. A few did, giving rise to exaggeration, most notably the newly built City Hall. Its shoddy construction was afterwards connected with graft, and toppled the careers of several city officials. In Noe Valley, there was little major damage. Many chimneys fell and there must have been damage to furniture and Victorian knickknacks, but no one was killed here during the quake.

On the morning of the quake, 52 fires were recorded, and there were probably many more unreported blazes. The broken water mains made life difficult for the fire-fighters, many of whom were volunteers.

"Car service" to Noe Valley meant the cable car lines running on Castro Street and nearby Valencia. Both lines had their rails twisted like pipe cleaners by the quake.

I had a few films left in my camera, so I loaded up and started going. I got

as far as 22nd and Mission, and there, Lippman Bros. Dry Goods Store and the old Somp's residence were burning to the ground for lack of water.

Along Valencia Street from 21st to 17th, there was a hole big enough to bury at least 50 people, not to mention horses. The old Valencia Street Hotel, where I had played sliding over the banister, was lying flat on the ground and all the people in it had lost their lives, was the report.

Valencia Street was an old creek bed which had been filled in and then built on. The severe joltings of the quake caused the soft-packed fill to settle suddenly, leaving huge holes gaping in the street. The buildings on top of the fill

way you looked, was Fire, Fire, Fire!

South of Market was filled with ramshackle houses, built in the 1850s and 60s by early settlers who abandoned them when the cable cars opened up more desirable locations. The area had since deteriorated into a tenement. The shoddily built structures collapsed during the quake, crushing or trapping scores of residents. Along the Embarcadero, shipping warehouses built on landfill along the bay also collapsed. These two areas became tinder boxes, and when numerous blazes broke out from gas leaks, the flames soon raged out of control. The Great Fire had begun.

There were cases of people "roasted alive" in collapsed buildings. The ones



This photo shows the formerly four-story Valencia Street Hotel shortly after the quake. Its three lower floors collapsed, killing those inside. The houses next door, which used to be dwarfed by the hotel, remained intact but acquired a crazy tilt.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE S.F. HISTORY ROOM, S.F. PUBLIC LIBRARY

reeled with the force of this settling, and houses for several blocks leaped off their foundations. The four-story Valencia Hotel collapsed like a tower of cards. Its top floor landed intact in the middle of the street, with the bottom three floors flattened underneath, crushing at least 15 people.

This scene found its way into the screenplay of the movie *San Francisco*. As Clark Gable searches desperately through the city's rubble for Jeannette MacDonald, he comes upon the (Hollywood-reconstructed) collapsed hotel. A policeman tells him "Those on the top floor stepped right out their windows to the street. The others were out of luck."

The crowd of people, autos, wagons and vehicles of all kinds, all coming in one direction, made the way impassable. Everybody was heading for Nae Valley and the hills. Chinamen with sacks of clothes, women and girls carrying bird cages, hat boxes, pictures and other useless articles. The men and boys followed, pulling along trunks, kids' express wagons and baby buggies, all loaded heavily. Mothers clasping babies to their breast, fathers trying to quiet crying children as they toddled bravely on at their sides. Dogs and cats, scorched and bleeding, were jumping off wagons and running wild. Downtown, they said, the flames were stopping at nothing, eating up all, and people were being "roasted alive." All you saw or heard, na matter which

who escaped, many with just a few sentimental possessions or pets, whatever they could carry, streamed out to the unthreatened areas of the city, some fleeing across the bay on ferries. North and westward they went to the Presidio, Golden Gate Park, even the beaches. Thousands came to Noe Valley, some climbing Twin Peaks to watch their homes burn.

Ashes were coming down thicker and thicker. Bank notes and burned pages from municipal records were crunching underfoot. The air grew hotter and hotter, and suffocating. The wild yells, the clang of the ambulances as they rushed to the emergency, the wounded and dead piled in heavy wagons, reminded one of Dante's *Inferno*, but Dante had nothing on this hell.

Then came the Proclamation from Mayor Schmitz, nailed on telegraph poles, electric poles and every available space.

Mayor Schmitz had declared martial law. Army troops from the Presidio policed the city, "authorized to KILL" looters, and executions of looters did actually occur. The soldiers also cordoned off the fire, keeping people away at bayonet point, and helped fight the flames; care for the injured and bury the dead. In Noe Valley they enforced the curfew and distributed tents to refugees

Continued on Page 12

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• After the Quake •

Continued from Page 12

who camped out wherever they could.

Thursday, April 19, 1906

The news came that as soon as the fire reached 20th Street, Noe Valley was to be dynamited. Charles Powers and his brothers got busy with their teams [of horses] and took all our belongings, free of charge, one load after another, up to the hill at 29th and Noe, where we all camped. My sister sat on the curbstone and cried as we left the "auld hoose."

I was sore. I had watched the fire from its start, but Pa ordered me to the hills with the rest. The old Captain in him said, "I sink with the ship." He wouldn't allow me to take Beant, my Newfoundland dog. The parrot's cage door was opened to give Polly a chance for her life. Polly was 21 years old. Darby, the canary, we took with us.

Many Noe Valley residents left their homes on Thursday, as the fire approached. On Wednesday night, as fire consumed much of downtown and, hungry for more, moved outward, another fire took hold in Hayes Valley, dubbed the "ham and eggs" fire because of the meal someone had been cooking when it broke out. By Thursday morning, it met the main fire, and a flaming wall raced southward into the Mission district. Stretching over five blocks between Dolores and South Van Ness, it advanced steadily, passing 16th Street, then 17th, then 18th. . . .

Two hundred men of Noe Valley combined with other firefighters with barrels of water and wet sacks, and barricaded themselves behind wetted doors to back-fire at Mission Park [now called Dolores Park]. Old John Center's well furnished the water supply, from subterranean tanks he had made with hydrant connections in 1859. Up on our hill, no church ever held a communion service like the 11 of us lying side by side on mattresses on the grass.

My brother came up to the hill at 3 a.m. and told us the fire had been conquered. We couldn't get up off that grass quick enough, but he said, "Stay where you are. It's better here till daylight." He took a pint flask from his pocket, and from one mouth to another this "saving swig" was passed.

Someone had pulled an old tin can piano out of a nearby home and was playing "Hane Never Was Nothin' Like This." A babble of excited voices talked in all languages all night.

The fire had at last been halted at 20th Street. Today the spot is marked by a gold fire hydrant, re-painted every year on April 18. The neighborhood brigades, helped by water from Old John Center's well and a wind that suddenly came from the south, had saved the day (and Noe Valley from dynamiting!). The excited babble of voices in "all languages" that Frances heard reflected the makeup of the population of Noe Valley. Census records show that the majority of residents were immigrants, from almost every conceivable nation on earth.

North of Market, the fire still had the upper hand, and here the south wind blew it toward Russian Hill and North Beach, where it weaved back and forth, chased by frenzied firefighters. Before it was



In the days and weeks following the 1906 quake and fire, Noe Valley residents were regular visitors at a food supply station at James Lick School, then a small schoolhouse on Noe Street. The "bread line" shown here extends from the school. The sharks in the street are outdoor kitchens. Note the plank sidewalks, the horse grazing in the backyard across Noe, and the roofs bereft of chimneys which fell during the quake. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HENRY J. MOMBACH COLLECTION.

finally vanquished Saturday night, most of the area bounded by Market, Van Ness and the bay had burned.

In the Mission, the ground was razed "almost as bare as when the Spaniards first landed," according to one writer. On Dolores Street, where the fire had burned most of the east side, the houses across the wide thoroughfare had escaped the flames but their paint was blistered and singed by the intense heat.

Friday, April 20, 1906

We started a cavalcade back to Clipper Street. The old camp kitchens were still intact, and boy, but they looked good. There were plenty of bricks around our yard. We handed them around [to make a fireplace] and soon the frying pan was sizzling and the bean pot set aboiling. Windbreaks were built up around the stoves and soon, San Francisco's cooks were on the job. Kettleful after kettleful of water was boiled and we made coffee. The refugees stopped, drinking and warming themselves. Each had a tale to tell.

Since gas stoves were unsafe, almost every home had a makeshift wood stove in the street out in front for cooking. These stayed in use for several weeks. Some were bordered by hastily constructed windbreaks, or even covered by a little shack. So Noe Valley then was a weird combination of proper Victorian neighborhood and hobo shantytown.

The Following Weeks

Things began to hum in Noe Valley after the troops arrived on 25th Street hill. The big Army truck had come tearing like mad down our street, with its mules and yelling soldiers almost knocking over the camp kitchens. Everyone got an eyeful of military life by day and night. Went to sleep with Taps, woke up with Reveille. Breakfasted at Mess Hall.

At night, when the order came,

"Lights out," the only sound to be heard was the steady tramp of the sentinels as they watched and walked their beats and at the least strike of a match, yelled, "Put out that light!"

Soldiers forced saloonkeepers to give up eatables. These were put in wagons and taken to James Lick School, which had been turned into a Food Supply Station and an Emergency Hospital. I lined up with the rest at the old school and got my can of tomatoes.

Inside of a week the hysteria was over and the refugees were settling down to meet existing conditions. People were housed in churches, garages, cemetery tombs, caves on the hillsides, street cars, barns, barracks, tents on the hills, in parks and in private homes.

The population of Noe Valley was almost doubled by the influx of refugees, who camped in every available space. Many residents opened their homes to those in need. One man remembered that his parents let in 120 people, most of whom slept on mattresses in the basement.

With all the stores closed by official order, everyone lined up at James Lick and other schools to receive their rations of potatoes, macaroni and canned vegetables, which were cooked in the convivial atmosphere of the street "kitchens." Cows on Twin Peaks continued to supply Noe Valley dairies, but bread was nonexistent because the bakery stoves weren't functioning.

There was no lack of water in Noe Valley. The pioneers' foresight now came in good stead. Our 40-foot well supplied over 2,000 people. The pump coughed up from morning till night, day after day, week after week. Tubs, boilers, jugs, denijohns, dishpans, barrels, bowls, pitchers, kettles, pots, pans, glasses—all were brought into our yard to be filled. Many had never seen a pump before and got a kick out of pumping. Not so us who had to do the 500 strokes daily to keep

the tank filled.

We had 23 little quakes between April 18th and May 24th. On May 25th another came when we were all asleep. My bed caved in. When Ma yelled, "Where is she?" I yelled "Don't worry. Ma! I'm safe down here in the alley." But I wasn't as far down as I thought—only on the floor.

When the Gas Company got orders to "light up," my brother lit up the house and all the neighbors gathered around for a sing-song festival. The inspector said the chimney was OK, but not until my mother gave him a bottle of her famous catsup, a couple of glasses of homemade jelly and a loaf of homemade bread.

Life began to return to normal in Noe Valley and the rest of San Francisco. Half the city had burned down, four to five hundred had died (in official estimates), and 200,000 people, almost half the city's population, were homeless.

The city had to pull itself up by its bootstraps. Repairing the devastation would be a Herculean task. The seal of San Francisco incorporated the phoenix rising from the ashes, inspired by the fact that the city had recovered from five large fires during its early years. The years following 1906 would test to the limits the survival capacity of the phoenix.

Today, 80 years later, the city is at least somewhat better prepared for such an event than it was in 1906. Water for quenching fires is stored in cisterns in case the mains break. Hopefully, more people are aware that they should not use gas appliances but should turn off the gas at their homes after a big quake. (Do you know where your main is?) On the other hand, there are more buildings on landfill today, and bridges which can be damaged, leaving the city isolated. As we wait obliviously, nervously, or somewhere in between for the fault under our feet to slide one more time, we can only hope we still have the spirit of the San Franciscans of '06, who knew how to clasp hands, and pull together. □

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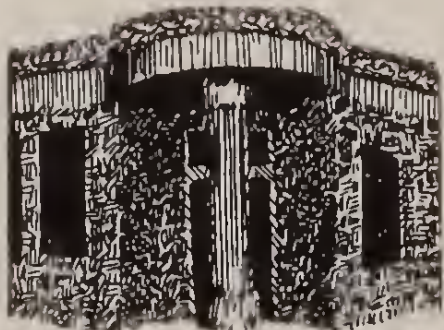
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Aid for AIDS

Two very different ways of caring for the terminally ill will be explored this month. A course in "Caring for the AIDS Client at Home" begins Monday evenings and Wednesday mornings April 14 and 19, respectively. The classes are offered by the Community College Skills Center and will be held at the center, Hudson and Whitney Young Circle (Wednesdays) and at 225 30th St. (Mondays). Participants must be at least 18 years of age and have a nursing certificate or be employed as an aide for the terminally ill. They will receive a certificate at the end of the seven-week program. Call Terry Bloom or the Allied Health Office at 647-5557 for more information.

On April 28 the Metaphysical Alliance, along with the AIDS Interfaith Network, holds a "Metaphysical AIDS Healing Service" at the Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St. The service, which is the sixth in a series of monthly healing gatherings, begins at 6:30 p.m. and includes music, meditation, readings and motivational talks with healing inspiration for all. Call the Network at 928-HOPE for details.

Joyful Journeys

You can help bring fun to older folk by volunteering with the California League for the Handicapped. The organization needs people who can help transport seniors to such activities as tea dances and exercise classes and who might enjoy taking walks (short or long) with those who are trying to cope with vision loss while remaining physically fit. Call 441-1980 at the League and ask for Dr. Rose Resnick.

Righteous Rally

There'll be a rally and march April 19 around the issues of jobs and justice, apartheid in South Africa, U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean, and nuclear arms reduction. Participants will assemble at Dolores Park,

SHORT TAKES

18th and Dolores streets, at 11 a.m., and then march down Market Street for a 1 p.m. rally at the Civic Center.

The demonstration, organized by the Mobilization for Peace, Jobs and Justice, has won endorsements from five AFL-CIO central labor councils, the NAACP, the National Council of Churches, Congresspersons Barbara Boxer and Ron Dellums, and Supervisors Harry Britt, Richard Hongisto and Nancy Walker. If you want more information or would like to help with organization and leafleting, call Carl Finamore or Eva Royale of the Mobilization at 431-2572.

A Fair in the Wind

Wind in the Willows, a non-profit preschool located at Army and Church streets, blows over to the Douglass Playground park (near 26th and Douglass) for its annual Spring Fair April 12, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Neighborhood families are especially invited to drift by and take part in a treasure hunt, face-painting, clown-tossing, magnetized fishing, relay races and other games geared toward the 2-6-year-old set. There'll also be hourly puppet shows, a bake sale and a lollipop tree. Just in case the wind picks up a little too much, the rain date is April 19.

Another Opening or 3

In entertainment, new ventures are exciting, and the neighborhood is witness to three this month. First, Kadeka Dances for Kids moved into the Noe Valley Ministry at 1021 Sanchez St. with a new office and an open house March 21. You can reach the group at 550-7189 to find out what they're up to.

Second, on April 12, Intersection for the Arts celebrates its 21st anniversary and the grand opening of its new home

in the former Valencia Rose building at 766 Valencia St. A gala performance party with the likes of comedian Harriet Schiffer and choreographer Helen Dannenberg will be followed by dancing to live music, and the refurbished 9,000-square-foot space will feature video and visual art installations. You can look forward to Tuesday evening poetry readings, art exhibits, and main-stage performances to begin April 16 with Schiffer's show. Intersection's doors open for the April 12 gala at 6:30 p.m., and the phone lines are open at 626-ARTS.

On April 26 and 27 the brand new World of Tales presents its premiere production, *Molly Whuppie*, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Created by Jim Griffith, a veteran of the S.F. Mime Troupe, the Eureka Theatre, and the Berkeley Rep, the World of Tales is devoted to presenting "classics and long-enduring stories in their original forms, avoiding sugar-coated Disneyesque versions and allowing instead the deeper meanings and insights of the stories to emerge." Kids and adults will be intrigued by this story, based on an English folk tale about a girl abandoned in the forest who summons her youthful courage and wit to overcome adversity and lead her sisters out of danger. The production is enhanced by William Young's score for synthesizer, bagpipe, and mineral percussion (rocks), choreography based on modern and traditional dance by Nona Burnett, and masks by Ed Botts. *Molly* sets out at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on April 26 and 2 p.m. on April 27, and you'll hear more at 282-2317 or 821-9652.

Looking at Lesbianism

Look for Army Street author Christine Heron Stockton's recently published *Lesbian Letters* in the window at Cover to

Cover on 24th Street this month. This innovative book uses fictionalized letters, journal entries, and poems to explore the joys and difficulties of being gay and coping with a straight world. The purpose of the book, according to Stockton, is to "heal the separation that most people perceive between the worlds of gay and straight people by reaching to our common humanity."

Coincidentally, the Roxie Cinema at 3117 16th St. is screening three highly acclaimed, award-winning gay films April 22. *Choosing Children*, produced and directed by Duncan Street residents Kim Klausner and Debra Chasnoff, presents six families from across the country talking about the medical, psychological and sociological issues of lesbian parenting. *Pink Triangles*, made by a collective of gay and straight activists, looks at the status of homophobia today and its origins in history. And Cathy Zheutlin's *Lost Love* examines the break-up of a lesbian relationship. Call 863-1087 for further information.

April Spice

Variety is the spice of the Noe Valley Music series this month, starting with the exotic jazz flavorings of the Glen Spearman Trio on April 5. Series coordinator Larry Kassin notes that Spearman has played saxophone with avant-garde pianist Cecil Taylor and performed previously in this series with Raphe Malik.

April 12 marks another return to the series, this one by electrifying, Jammie-winning, husband-and-wife, guitar-and-vocal duo Tuck and Patti. Geoff Hoyle, physical comedian extraordinaire and veteran of the Pickle Family Circus, appears April 19. And next month, watch and listen for the "last reunion of and birth of a new" Blues Project, bringing back Roy Bloomenfeld, Danny Kalb, and Andy Kulberg from our flower days and adding guitarist Chris Michie.

All shows start at 8:15 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., and advance tickets can be purchased at Aquarius Records on 24th Street. For more info, call 282-2317.

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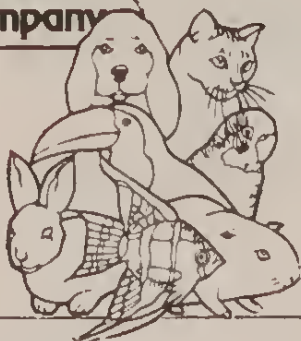
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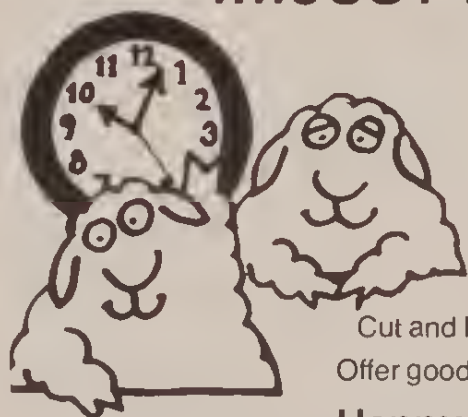
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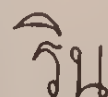
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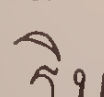
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By Mazook

NOE NAMEDROPS: Just back from the Philippines with a big smile on her face is Elisa Ining, owner of Elisa's Health Spa on 24th Street. Elisa returned to her place of birth, Kalibo Aklan, Philippines, on Jan. 6 to campaign for Cory Aquino in that country's presidential election.

"I joined my relatives to work very hard for Mrs. Aquino," reports Elisa, "and we won!" On election day, Elisa traveled from her hometown to the capital city, Manila, to take part in the post-election demonstrations (Marcos was still claiming victory) and the celebration following Aquino's eventual inauguration. "It felt so good in the end," recalls Elisa, still beaming. "It is a good future there now."

Soon to depart Noe Valley for Paris is local writer and radio personality Richard Behan. Richard says he'll be "putting the finishing touches" on his new screenplay (a story that has Paris as a backdrop) and "selling it to a movie producer." Then he's off to Cannes to cover the film festival for local radio station KRCY ("The City"), where he broadcasts a weekly show (Sundays, 3 to 7 p.m.). A third-generation Noe Val- leon, Richard is the author of numerous scripts for TV's *Barney Miller* and *Dear Detective*. He also was a deejay on KMPX during its heyday in the late '60s.

Also doing a lot of writing and traveling these days is Noe Heights resident Ben Fong-Torres. In addition to contributing a regular column to *Gentlemen's Quarterly* and weekly commentary in the *S.F. Chronicle*, Ben is working on a project for the eclectic ad agency Chiat/Day, famous for its Apple computer ads. He'll be commuting from S.F. to New York and Los Angeles to work on an in-house magazine for Chiat/Day.

"This is my first time in the ad game," says Ben. "They want a different point of view, an outsider's perspective" on the advertising world. Ben and his wife Dianne moved over here from the Haight last summer because "we like the sunshine, the view, and less dog-doo." That sounds familiar.

Another newsman who's new to Noe Heights is Gerald W. Johnson, the managing editor for the *Small Business Exchange*, a San Francisco-based newspaper (published twice a month) serving small, minority-and woman-owned businesses throughout Northern California.

☎ ☎ ☎

TOP OF THE POPS at both Aquarius and Streetlight Records is Elvis Costello's new album, *King of America*. Streetlight's Paul Kauppila describes it as "much more mellow than Costello's past works, especially since he's backed up by the TCB band, who played behind the real Elvis years back." Costello, by the way, has changed his name back to what it was at birth: Declan Patrick Aloysius MacManus. That's rock and roll.

Bookwise, Cover to Cover owner Nicky Salan says your selection for book of the month is Harvey and Marilyn Diamond's *Fit for Life*, which explores the premise, "It's not what you eat, but when and how." Does this mean I can have a hot fudge sundae for breakfast?

Local videoramas report that current Noe Valley favorites are *Prizzi's Honor* (at Captain Video and Video Uno), *Return of the Jedi* (at One Stop Video), and *Pee Wee's Big Adventure* (at National

and now for the RUMORS behind the news



Smiling victoriously with newly elected Philippines President Cory Aquino (far right) and her fellow campaign workers is Elisa Ining (center), owner of Elisa's Health Spa on 24th Street. Ining could have stayed here and gotten into hot water, but decided to return to her hometown, Kalibo Aklan, in January to help get out the vote for Aquino.



Read the Rumors Behind the News and help the little guy find out who's entertaining the guests at Bob Coulter's 100th birthday party. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

Video). We obviously got taste.

The scent of choice at Common Scents is "China Rain." Your favorite sausage at the Specialty Chef is "Cajun." And local property owners' favorite form of holding title is "Joint Tenancy" (right of survivorship), according to Chicago Title's Noe Valley manager, Val Vigil. "Probably not the wisest but certainly the most widely used," says Val.

☎ ☎ ☎

NOE NOTES: Isa Muhawieh has joined Belt Market and Little Italy on the growing list of businesses with two-count 'em—two Downtown Noe Valley locations. Isa has moved his hair salon, Isa's, to 3836 24th St., but "we will keep the Vicksburg store for facials, make-up, manicures and tanning [as in sun]

booths."

Ocean Front Walkers is also on the up and up, having recently transported its brightly colored casual clothes line from next to St. Clair's Liquors to Cutie Quilts' old spot a block away.

A branch office of Zephyr Realty (the main office is over the hill in Eureka Valley) is moving into 3841 24th St. Sales Manager Debra Hersh says, "We'll open in June with a big party."

There will be a reunion party for Mission High School's Class of '66. For details, write right away: P.O. Box 273, San Leandro, CA 94577.

Watch for news of a May event, the "Noe Valley Art Affair," the brainchild of a new group (26 members so far) called the Noe Valley Art Association. Contact Jeff Behney at Nobody's Inn for details.

☎ ☎ ☎

A TEA PARTY FOR TWO-TIMERS is what Star Magic is calling its April 7 bash at Morrison Planetarium for those who are seeing Halley's Comet the second time this century (the first being in 1910). Star Magician Justin Moreau is flying his mother in from Michigan for the event, and Star Magic's resident associate astronomer, Rick Sanjour, will present a special planetarium show for the invited guests.

Magic manager and party organizer Esther Goldman proudly displays a card she received from Col. W. E. Long of San Francisco, who recalls the first time he saw the comet "when I was eight years old riding on the rear platform of a Union Pacific train from Chicago to Denver." Esther expects around 40 two-timers from around the country to attend the event. It was English astronomer Edmund Halley (1656-1742) who first discovered the dang thing in 1682. He calculated the comet's orbit around the sun (heresy in those geocentric days) and predicted its return in 1757. The rest is history.

☎ ☎ ☎

IF IT'S HISTORY YOU WANT, without looking at the answers below can you:

1. Name five Noe Valley movie theaters and their former locations.
2. Identify the original names of 22nd, Elizabeth, 23rd and 24th Streets. (Clue: the first housing tract in Noe Valley, established circa 1875, was named the John M. Horner Addition.)
3. Give the first names of the three Remak brothers who own Glen Five & Ten's dwindling chain of dime stores.
4. Name the singer who entertained at Bob Coulter's 100th birthday party at the Noe Valley Ministry March 7 and who later appeared on Channel 7's six o'clock news.

Answer time:

1. The Noe Theater once sat at the corner of 24th and Noe, where Coast Savings is now. The Acme Theater (a nickelodian) was on 24th in the spot now occupied by Glen Five & Ten. The Palmer Theater was in Surf Supermarket's place. The Vicksburg Theater was replaced by Dan's Gas Station. And the Rita was once in the storefront now occupied by the Holiness Temple on Church Street at 28th Street.
2. Twenty-second Street was John Street. Elizabeth Street has always been Elizabeth (John's wife). Twenty-third was Horner, and 24th was Park Street.
3. John, Paul and William.
4. Crooner Lou Glogovac thrilled the crowd with such old standards as "Young at Heart" at Bob's birthday celebration.

☎ ☎ ☎

HOT FLASHES FROM WASHINGTON, D.C.: President Ronald Milhouse Reagan shocked the world last month when he announced through his press secretary, Larry Speakes, that the \$100 million he'd sought to give to the Contras to wage war in Central America would instead be diverted to four Noe Valley neighborhood groups. In the President's words, "The money should be used for the health, education and welfare of the citizens of that valley, with at least half divided among the neighborhood's seven schools."

That's a joke, folks, just like the rest of the U.S. Government's so-called "defense" budget. Our enemies are within our borders, and those fools in Washington can't even see it. Ciao for now. ☐



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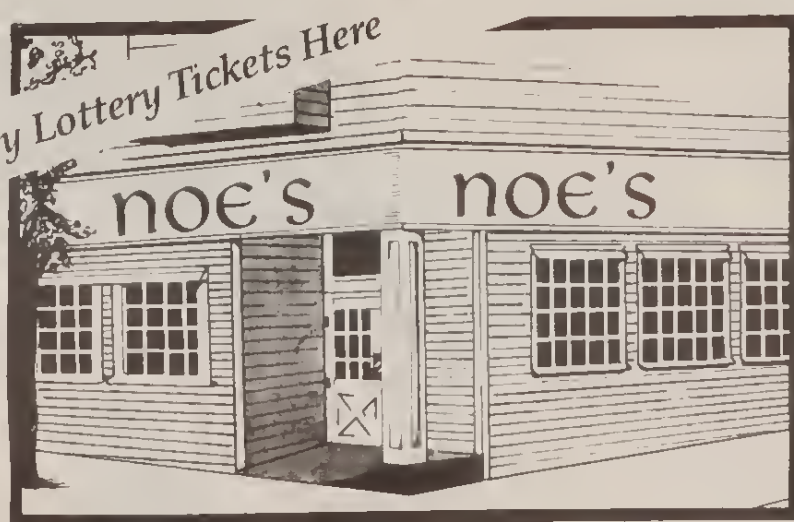
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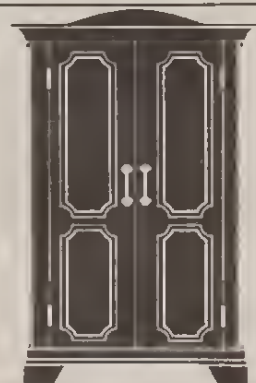


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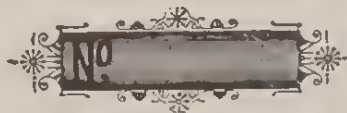
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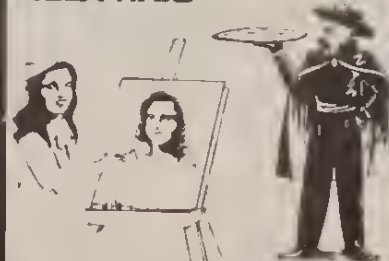


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Javier Swan Ruiz

She's 31, he's 35, and they were both "very ready to have a baby," say parents Laura Lent and Tom Ruiz. Proof of that came on Dec. 12, 1985, with the arrival of their first-born child, Javier Swan, weighing in at 8 pounds, 5 ounces. He's a "long and lean type" baby, according to Laura, a "big guy" in Tom's words. At three months, Javier is now starting to sleep through the night. And his parents are starting to relax. "The circles under my eyes are growing a little smaller," says Laura.

Despite the loss of sleep, Laura, an administrator at the Center for Investigative Reporting, has found it a nice "change of pace" to be home with the baby for a few months, although she will be going back to work soon. Tom, who is a high school teacher in social studies and U.S. history, will be alternating work schedules with Laura when she goes back to the center, so they don't plan to put Javier in childcare until next fall.

Tom and Laura live in a seven-unit

co-op at Elizabeth and Sanchez Streets. Because the neighbors get together twice a month for dinner and share babysitting and household chores, their son has become not only part of the nuclear family, but a member of the greater household. "Javier," says Tom, "is the newest partner in the cooperative."

Tom's philosophy is to be an active father, "to take on lots of tasks with Javier." He said Javier took to bottle feeding right from the beginning, so when Laura's not around, Tom is, with bottle in hand.

Laura reports that Javier has already learned to stand up and is "quite proud of himself." He's also developed good baby manners when accompanying his parents to luncheons at Tien Fu on 24th Street. "He just kind of watches us or crashes out," Tom says.

Just what Javier thinks of this learning process is at present unknown. "He's not exactly talking yet," says Laura. But the breakthrough could come any minute. "Let's just say he's making noises that are getting louder and louder every week!"

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Fiction

The Handmaid's Tale—Margaret Atwood
Stone 588—Gerald Browne
Lie Down With Lions—Ken Follett
Angels of September—Andrew Greeley
The Good Apprentice—Iris Murdoch
Marva: A Life—Joyce Carol Oates
The New Girl Friend and Other Stories—Ruth Rendell
Jean Rhys: The Complete Novels

Non-Fiction

Burton—Hollis Alpert
Bis 9 to Paradise: A Loving Voyage—Leo Buscaglia
The Best Medicine: The Complete Health and Preventive Medicine Handbook—Kurt Butler and Lynn Rayner
Directory of Shop-by-Mail Bargain Sources
Coping With Food Allergy—Claude Frazier
Affordable Chic: Tours of Factory Clothing Outlets in San Francisco—Victoria Goff and Viktoria Sparks-Forrester
Maida Heatter's Book of Great American Desserts
No Laughing Matter—Joseph Heller
The Ultimate Paper Airplane—Richard Kline

The New Holistic Health Handbook. Living Well in a New Age

In the Eye of the Storm: A Memoir—Kurt Waldheim

Planet Earth—Jonathan Weiner

Parent's Shelf

Never Say Yes to a Stranger: What Your Child Must Know to Stay Safe—Susan Newman

Feeling Safe, Feeling Strong—Susan N. Terkel

Children's Fiction

Arthur's Loose Tooth—Lillian Hohan (ages 5-8)

Angelina at the Fair—Katharine Holabird (4-6)

Sarah, Plain and Tall—Patricia MacLachlan (1986 Newbery Winner, for ages 8 and up)

Rabbit's Morning—Nancy Tafuri (1-3)

The Tom Sawyer Fires—Lawrence Yep (10 and up)

Children's Non-Fiction

Tomie DePaola's Mother Goose (2 and up)

The Macmillan Book of Dinosaurs and Other Prehistoric Creatures (7-12)

The Programmer's Guide to the Galaxy—Sandra Markle (9 and up)

Stories to Solve: Folktales From Around the World (8-10)

Meet the Computer—Seymour Simon (5-9)

Cooking the Chinese Way—Ling Yu (10 and up)

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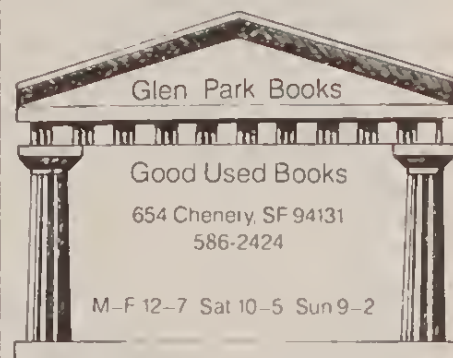
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CALENDAR

APRIL 1: Ongoing Tuesday evening CDURSE IN MIRACLES, preceded by a Peace & Healing service. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 5:30–6:15 p.m., healing service, 6:30–7:50, group meeting. 285-3297

APRIL 1: APRIL FODL'S DAY COSTUME BALL EXTRAVAGANZA with The Furies, McGuire's, and White Fronts. 16th Nole Firehouse 7, 3160 16th St. 9 p.m. 621-1617

APRIL 1, 15, 29: PRESCHOOL STORY TIME for ages 3–5. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 11 a.m. 285-2788

APRIL 1–MAY 10: "Celebrate Life," EASTER SHOW. Gallery Sanchez St. Reception for the artists, Sunday, April 6, 2–4 p.m. 282-2317

APRIL 5: THE GLEN SPEARMAN DUARTET. Saxophonist Glen Spearman, formerly of the Cecil Taylor Unit, waits with a new group featuring cellist/bassist Cash Killion. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8:15 p.m. 282-2317

APRIL 5: NEW AGE STEEL STRING GUITAR with Peppino D'Augustino. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 7:30 p.m. 282-2317

APRIL 7, 14, 21: ECONDMICS FOR ACTIVISTS, an introduction to economic issues led by Tom Sears, Ph.D. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 7:30–9:30 p.m. 648-1164

APRIL 12: CATHLEEN D'CONNELL plays steel-string harp melodies with roots in Medieval and Celtic folk music. Meal Market Coffeehouse, 4124 24th St. 8 p.m. 285-5598

APRIL 12: TUCK & PATTI, "the holiest guitar/vocal duo on the planet," according to Bobby McFerrin, will warm up audiences at the Noe Valley Music series. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8:15 p.m. 282-2317

APRIL 13: Run for your library and JOG YOUR MIND, with a 10K serious run and a one-mile fun run. Prizes for runners and volunteers, proceeds to benefit the Friends of the SF Public Library. Run begins at Marina Branch Library, 1890 Chestnut St., 9 a.m. 558-3857

APRIL 13: OPEN HOUSE at St. Philip's Catholic School, 665 Elizabeth St. 11 a.m. 824-8467

APRIL 13–MAY 13: WALL PIECES/SCULPTURE by Celia Thompson-Taupin, and GLASS SCULPTURE by Dana Smith. Reception Sunday, April 13, 2:30–6:30 p.m. with music by the Soup and Bread Society. Art Options, 1600 Church St. 641-1892

APRIL 14: The Eureka Theatre Company presents Tony Kushner's play, "A Bright Room Called Day," as part of its Discovery PLAY READING series. The piece focuses on a group of actors, artists and filmmakers in Berlin in the 1930s as they watch the Third Reich come to power. 2730 16th St. 8 p.m. 558-9898

APRIL 16–20: "LAWS," a collection of short dance and theater works presented in support of the ongoing resistance by Arizona Navajo and Hopi Indians to forced relocation. New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. 8:30 p.m. 863-9834

APRIL 16–MAY 10: Lilit Theatre presents HARRIET SCHIFFER in her performance work "Morning Sickness, or Woodsman, Spare That Tree!"—a "funnily trelul" and "lretlutly tunny" look at the question of whether or not to bear children. Intersection for the Arts, 766 Valencia St. 8 p.m. 626-ARTS

APRIL 16–MAY 28: DIVORCE ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM offered through the Divorce Ministry Office of the Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco. Chancery, 445 Church St. (near Mission Dolores). For pre-registration call 565-3624 or 666-6698

APRIL 17: Judy Thomas will share her slides and experiences of previous trips to the Soviet Union and discuss the second WOMEN'S TRIP FOR PEACE coming up in June. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 282-9246

APRIL 18: A salute to IRS day in the PREMIERE REVIVAL of the film "Five Against the House," directed by Phil Karlson and starring Kim Novak and Brian Keith. Noe Valley Cinema, 1021 Sanchez St. 8 p.m. 282-2317

APRIL 18: 80 YEARS AGO TODAY an earthquake started a fire which burned down half the city. All are invited to join the 1906 survivors in their annual gilding of the "life-saving" fire hydrant at 19th and Church streets. (The ceremony will take place an hour or so after the group's traditional meeting at Lolita's Fountain at 5:12 a.m.) 755-8137 or 558-3949 for information on this and other gala events

APRIL 18, 19, 25, 26: The irrepressible stripper Gypsy Rose Lee is brought back to life in the classic musical fable "GYPSY," at School of the Arts in the J. Eugene McAleer Theatre, D'Shaughnessy Blvd. near Portola Drive. 7 p.m. 824-1565 for reservations

APRIL 19: SPRING CLEANUP DAY sponsored by Friends of Noe Valley. A dumpster will devour all your trash except dirt and concrete. Castro and Clipper Streets. 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

APRIL 19: Chaplinesque comedian/mime GEDFF HOYLE makes his farewell concert/club appearance. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8:15 p.m. 282-2317

APRIL 19: RALLY AND MARCH sponsored by the Mobilization for Peace, Jobs and Justice. Assemble at Dolores Park, 18th and Dolores streets, 11 a.m.; march down Market St., 12 noon, rally at Civic Center, 1 p.m. 621-7326 or 431-2572

APRIL 20: CLASSICAL GUITAR with Tim Fox and Phillip Rosheger. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 7:30 p.m. 282-2317

APRIL 21–JULY 21: Eight-week workshop on BLACK WOMEN WRITING begins tonight. Taught by Gabrielle Daniels, the course will cover Black women writers from America, Britain, South Africa and Cuba, including novelists, poets, and critics. Workshop fees are \$10–\$25 on a sliding scale. Men are encouraged to attend. Meets Mondays, 7:30–9:30 p.m. 648-7796

APRIL 22: STORYTELLING with Joan Sullivan for ages 3–5. Come hear exciting tales in celebration of the "Week of the Young Child." Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 285-2788

APRIL 22: Showing of three highly acclaimed GAY FILMS: "Choosing Children," a look at lesbians becoming parents, "Pink Triangles," a study of homophobia, and "Lost Love," an amusing short about the break-up of a lesbian relationship. Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St. 7:30 and 9:15 p.m. 863-1087

APRIL 24–30: Phase One Productions presents "The Miss Firecracker Contest," an offbeat absurdist comedy by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Beth Henley about escaping unhappy pasts and pursuing life's prizes. Nova Theater, 347 Dolores St. 8 p.m. 864-0235

APRIL 25: TALK BY RUTH SIDEL, author of *Women and Children Last*, who will discuss the plight of poor women in affluent America, and how that plight has worsened in the 1980s. Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 821-4675

APRIL 25: An evening of FILM COMEDY featuring 10 1950 kinescopes with stars Cid Caesar and Imogene Coca, filmed during the Golden Age of TV. Noe Valley Cinema, 1021 Sanchez St. 8 p.m. 282-2317

APRIL 26: Jan Luby sings SDULFUL SONGS culled from her vaudevilian upbringing on Coney Island. Meal Market Coffeehouse, 4123 24th St. 8 p.m. 285-5598

APRIL 26: ART NOW '86 show by MFA graduates at the San Francisco Art Institute. Pier 2, Fort Mason. Noon–6 p.m.



APRIL 26 & 27: The World of Tales Theatre presents "MOLLY WHUPPIE," an English fairytale adapted for young audiences by Mary Winegarden. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. April 26, 2 & 7 p.m.; April 27, 2 p.m. 282-2317 or 821-9652

APRIL 28: Monthly METAPHYSICAL AIDS HEALING SERVICE offers music, meditation, and inspirational readings. Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco, 150 Eureka St. 6:30 p.m. 431-8708

MAY 3: THE BLUES PROJECT 86. A final reunion concert and the unveiling of a new band all in the same night! Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8:15 p.m. 282-2317

The Scoop on CALENDAR

Please send Calendar items before the 15th day of the month preceding month of issue to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley neighborhood events receiving priority. Please note: the deadline for the May calendar is April 15.

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THE NOE VALLEY VOICE



Get ready for life in the fast lane! Merchants expect that the freeway ramp that was recently transferred from above the Embarcadero to 24th Street will bring seeds of tourists to the neighborhood. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

City to Noe Valley: You Got It! Embarcadero Freeway Moves to 24th St.

By Salitchka Smithski

In a special election held yesterday, San Franciscans voted overwhelmingly to tear down the historic Embarcadero Freeway and move it to Noe Valley. City construction crews went to work immediately following the polls' closing, and by 6 a.m. this morning the 40,000-ton landmark had been disassembled piece by piece, trucked across town, and erected above 24th Street. With extensions over Army and Dolores Streets, the freeway ramp provides direct access from both 101 and 280, linking both the East Bay and the Peninsula to San Francisco's cutest neighborhood and newest tourist mecca.

The Noe Valley Patisserie, Boulan-

gerie, Lingerie and Dungaree Merchants Association, which sponsored the measure, was thrilled that Noe Valley had been awarded the concrete monolith, long coveted by many San Francisco shopping districts. Association President Welch Rarebite said the new skyway would be a welcome boost to local business. "We predict that with the addition of the freeway, 15,000 more cars per hour will be impacting 24th Street on any given day. And that's a lot of hungry people, looking for edible chocolate panties and the like."

He added that his group had already made plans to use the freeway to the merchants' advantage. They intend to:

- Hold a double-decker street fair next

year, affording booth space to 1,000 vendors.

- Go ahead with city-approved plans for an amusement park, which will include Big Bell and Little Bell roller-coasters and a wax museum showcasing such local personalities as the Friends' Friend Miriam Blaustein, "Litter King" Fred Methner, and that dog wearing the plastic inverted-lampshade-type scratch protector who's always sniffling around 24th Street.

- Establish special merchants' parking meters down the center of now permanently shaded 24th Street. (Note: Southside merchants had complained that the north side of the street was always sunnier. Now that unfair advantage has been rectified.)

- And install toll booths and specially designated tour bus and carpool lanes, skateboard ramps, and a "Little Italy" lane for restaurant patrons in parties of five or more.

Bakers of Paris, a member of the association, said it would install a Croissant-a-Go-Go booth in the Marin residents' lane, whereby fresh pastries would be shot up to commuters via pneumatic tube from the 24th Street shop below.

Rarebite said all proceeds from the new freeway enterprises would go toward new Christmas decorations for 24th Street.

Asked whether the expected influx of tourists might cause a parking problem, Rarebite said, "We took an informal poll of Noe Valley residents before the vote, and they said that ever since the city razed the Mission District last year to build our 15-block parking garage, things had been hunky-dory." He added that local citizens had suggested that the association "just paint over the handicapped zones" if they need more parking spaces in the future. □

—Labor Relations Splintered—

Elmer Bolts, Mannequins Revolt

By Barbarella Kan Vuyk

Elmer, the wooden and paper-mâché mannequin who has been a cheery feature in the window of Tuggey's Hardware since 1956, was discovered missing Saturday morning and, at press time, had not yet returned to the 24th Street establishment.

The disappearance, at first considered merely a practical joke or promotional ploy, was actually the result of a fierce

labor dispute, the *Voice* has learned. And what Tuggey's thought were private personnel problems have now cropped up at many other Noe Valley shops employing mannequins.

"I'm no dummy," said Elmer in an exclusive interview with the *Voice* last night. "I know when I'm being exploited."

Elmer claims that his relationship with Tuggey's management has been suffering

Continued on Page 2

MISSING



In hopes of finding their missing mannequin, Tuggey's printed this picture of Elmer on the store's shopping bags

INSIDE

Space Shuttle
Debris Found in
Acme Omelette . 42

• Dummies Unite! •

Continued from Page 1

for years, but the reason he left late Friday night was to avoid "the final injustice."

According to Elmer, on Friday morning a long-time customer came into the store requesting an unusual kind of bolt that was out of stock. The woman said she needed it by Saturday evening to install special lighting for an art show that night. Employee Andy Gomez phoned all the other hardware stores in the city trying to locate the bolt but was unsuccessful. At closing time, Friday night, however, Elmer overheard owner Dennis Giovannoli say, "Yeah, there's one holding his head on. The shipment will be in Thursday, no problem. In the meantime, we'll display those new ratchet sets."

It was at that moment, says Elmer, that he realized that Giovannoli was planning to leave him disassembled for close to a week so that a customer could have his neck bolt.

"There was nothing else I could do," said Elmer, sipping from a cup of linseed oil. "I've been loyal to them for 30 years, and what do I get for it? Burrs on my feet from standing day in and day out, a veneer totally shot from the sun, and they still treat me like some kind of object. And I'm gettin' old, ya know? I hear the guys complain when they move me around, saying I'm stiff and heavy compared to the newer models. For all I know, I could have lain in that hack room for months, maybe forever. How am I supposed to support my family when I'm lying in pieces in a cardboard box?"

Elmer and Zelda, the cloth mannequin who models in the window of the boutique Glad Rags, are married and have three young ragdolls, Elmer explained.

"Those dolls need stuffing, and thread for their seams," Elmer said heatedly. "They've got it hard enough being the kids of an intermaterial marriage, and it's only going to get tougher with us trying to make it on one salary."

Elmer has been staying at a safe house—the home of a Noe Valley Ministry congregationalist, and has been promised sanctuary as long as it takes to open negotiations and settle his dispute with Tuggey's.

That may be quite a while. Tuggey's owner Giovannoli thinks "Elmer's totally overreacting. He would have been back in the window by Thursday, and I might have even paid him half-time for the days he spent disassembled. Now he's got the whole neighborhood riled."

Since Elmer's wildcat strike, other mannequins in windows along Noe Valley's commercial strip have been making substantial demands of their employers. The little motorized shoemaker in the Wooden Heel (he calls it the "Wooden Hell") has said he'll stop hammering heels altogether if he doesn't get nights off, and others on the street have demanded regular exercise breaks, fade insurance and more say in the merchandise they display.

Zelda was unable to be reached for comment, Elmer said, since she will not get time off at Glad Rags until the shop changes its display to fall clothes.

Elmer is not sure whether he'll return to Tuggey's even if conditions are improved, stating that "city life is getting to me."

"Twenty-fourth Street just gets busier and noisier as the years go by, all the old faces have disappeared and I'd like my dolls to grow up in the country, where they can be around trees and feel more accepted."

"As for me, it's getting harder and harder to smile while watching sheets of plywood get sold day after day," Elmer said. He added that he might look for a scarecrow position or even television stunt work, if it paid well enough.

"One thing's for sure. If I go back to Tuggey's, there'll have to be some changes made. I'm sick and tired of being screwed."



Drinking Up at the Zoo

Chronic alcoholism among zoo animals is on the rise, according to a recently published study conducted by the San Francisco Zoo. Animal therapist Cloe Blardip, who interviewed 1½-year-old Fifi, above, for the research project, reports that "the animals tended to overdo it a bit" during this past rainy season when they were forced to spend more time indoors and fewer visitors came around to entertain them. In an effort to curb further abuse, zoo authorities have raised the animal drinking age to 21 months and imposed an 11 o'clock closing time at the most popular watering holes.

PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

The Buck Fund Stops Here

By David Kottler

In a stunning legal decision, Judge Solomon has decided the fate of the \$380 million Buck Fund by awarding the hotly contested money to the community of Noe Valley.

Lawyers for the San Francisco Foundation and Marin County, the two main adversaries in the battle over the will of Beryl Buck, went speechless as the judge announced his decision April 1. (Since being speechless is a violation of the Lawyers' Code of Ethics, both lawyers were disbarred as they left the courtroom.)

Immediately after the decision, a coalition representing various Noe Valley interests announced that the windfall would be divided among the following groups and projects:

- Noe Valley Ministry, for the purchase of an orange neon sign reading, "SANCTUARY ⑥ — AAA AND CISPES APPROVED."

- The Noe Valley Anti-Petitioners League, enough money to launch a petition drive to get petitioners out of Noe Valley.

- The Noe Valley Merchants Association, for a retractable dome over Noe Valley to protect future street fairs from inclement weather.

- The Friends of Noe Valley, for money to level Twin Peaks so that Noe Valley residents will finally have an unobstructed ocean view.

- Harry Aleo's Twin Peaks Realty, for purchase of the 20-volume *Complete Reader's Digest* as an addition to the newly established Reagan Library.

CRASS ADS

IS YOUR VCR taping while you're asleep? Have you ever considered a *second* satellite dish? Do you secretly like Channel 4's Wayne Shannon? Don't panic, victims of inherited video disease can now get the support they need. ACCP (Adult Children of Couch Potatoes) is cable-ready to help channel those unroadcastable tendencies. Operators are standing by to tune into your technical difficulties. Call today and you'll receive a FREE dustbuster/styling-mousse applicator. 666-7777.

DESPERATELY SEEKING ELMER. All is forgiven. Denny.

WE'VE BEEN EVICTED! The homes we've enjoyed for decades have been taken away by greedy, lawless landlords, and we are now hoping to find a comfortable home in Noe Valley. We are a financially secure mature couple seeking a house situated on a large plot with ample garage space and living quarters for domestic help. House must have good security and a great amount of closet space. WILL PAY CASH! Send replies to Fred and Imelda Marcos, c/o U.S. Government Relocation Service, Gilligan's Island, HI.

THE NEXT TIME your hairstylist trims your bangs too short, the jerk in front of you in the express checkout tries to get by with more than 10 items, or your neighbor exhales his cigarette smoke right out his window and into yours, call Hype-it Legal Services, specializing in aggravating assaults and petty injury cases. 800-GET-EVEN. Free breast exam with this ad.

TIRED OF BEING A DICK? I am a therapist who offers special counseling and treatment services for guys named Dick. Together we can explore ways to improve low self-esteem, master quick comebacks for every social situation, find mates and employment. Call 001-0202. Ask for Dick.

CACA (Children of Adult Capitalists Association) now accepting new members. Meets Sundays, Cow Palace. Valet parking. Call 100.0000 for today's rate. VISA, MC, Amex or lemon caper dressing accepted.

NERD ON THE STREET

By Karry Lassin

NOE VALLEY, 2026: The recent influx of Mom & Pop, variety and service-oriented stores to the neighborhood has caused considerable concern among long-time Noe Valley residents. To check out the phenomenon, a *Voice* reporter hit the streets late last month. This is what s/he found.



Clive Brawn, chocolate speculator, Hoffman Street: Why, when I was a kid you could get a different brand of ice cream or chocolate chip

cookie every 50 feet on 24th Street. And now I hear one of the Jaguar dealerships is going out of business, you know the one next to the Lhasa Apso boutique. Look, can't these so-called "variety" stores go someplace else? If I need any of those—what do they call 'em?—"necessities," I can always go down to Union Street. In Noe Valley it's getting to the point where my kid can't find a place to have his nails done.

Alexis Wisp, infant computer-literacy counselor, 24th Street: I

remember when I could go to six or seven different places to rent a video or get a pound of French Roast or a facial. Now what do you get? Cheap socks, Band-aids, spiral notebooks, Scotch tape, dish drainers, all that chi-chi stuff. The other day I went out looking for a toy for one of my clients and could find only one choice of teddy bear at Glen 5 & 10. It's enough to make you sick.



John Staid, "very rich person," Hill Street: What I miss are the cafes. Ah, the cafes. You used to be able to dump 50 or 60 pre-inflation dollars down on



dinner just for yourself. Now some hippie is putting in that Veggie Market Coffeehouse, where you have to sit down over tea and read a paper, write a novel or visit with people. B-O-O-R-I-N-G! I mean, how many people do you really want to talk to? And here I thought the city had promised to make the rents go so high none of this would happen!

By barbarella kan vnyk

The Local Muse

Bark, bark

clamheart in my drawer,
a laundry stained mauve sheets,
a thousand chrome centaurs
shattered crystalline prisms

i whitened your coffee
you blackened my eye.
o molt, do not mold,
my celestial mealworm!

for in the morn of my darkness,
the height of my depth,

my hungry-shark heart
gnaws on your love's death.

the cheese of man
is the iv of time;
heak of eternity
in sorrowful clime.

i am the last cornflake
in the howl of your life.
a mere milky maize-bloat
unable to float.

bereft of hañana,
for me, no mañana

ZIPPY

I WAS SIGNING COPIES OF MY NEW BOOK AT A NEW WAVE DISCO IN NEW YORK CITY--

MAKE IT OUT TO "MR. HOT PANTS" FROM "SWIZZLES".
WHATEVER YOU SAY, SWIZ...
...UH, MA'AM!!



"TRUTH OR CONDIMENTS"

WE WERE GIVING FREE BOOKS TO ANYONE WHO'D CONSUME A DING-DONG W/ TACO SAUCE.

IT'S NOT BAD, REALLY. THE HOT PEPPER NEUTRALIZES TH' BHT!
AM I HAVING INDIGESTION YET??



THAT WAS WHEN THE 96-YEAR-OLD SCOTTISH TWINS WALKED IN -- (BOTH 6 FT. TALL)

WE WORSHIP ZIPPY-- IN OUR HOME WE READ HIM ALOUD EVERY NIGHT.
THEN WE TRY TO OUTDO EACH OTHER INVENTING OUR OWN ZIPPY SAYINGS!!



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BUT NOTHING COULD TOP THE WOMAN FROM SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA.

HE WAS BORN ON APRIL FOOLS DAY! I NAMED HIM ZIPPY!!
LADY, I NEVER LEFT TH' HEMISPHERE!
WANNH!

